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2002

Wheat Swamp Christian Church

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

3732 Wheat Swamp Road
LaGrange, North Carolina 28551



1752

2002

250th Anniversary Celebration

October, 2002

FWB

1954

BX

7331

Wheat Swamp Christian Church

.W47

250th anniversary celebration : 1755-

H64

2002

October, 2002

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Wheat Swamp Christian Church

Executive Committee
3732 Wheat Swamp Road
LaGrange, NC 28551
(252)522-2886

Anniversary Committee
Rose Hardy
Theresa Hardy
Jean Gardner, Chairperson



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The Disciples of Christ Historical Society

Congratulates

Wheat Swamp Christian Church

LaGrange, North Carolina


on the occasion of its

250th

anniversary

October 6, 2002

We celebrate with you your place in the ongoing pilgrimage of
God's faithful people.



President



DISCIPLES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Peter M. Morgan
President
Sara Harwell
Director of Library and Archives

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Nashville, TN 37212-2196
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October 6, 2002

Wheat Swamp Christian Church
3732 Wheat Swamp Road
La Grange, NC 28551-9775

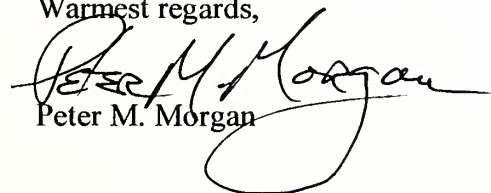
Dear Friends in Christ:

The number of persons whose lives have been enriched by the people of your church through 250 years can only be known to God: the small deeds of kindness to neighbors, the prayers of love when friends were in distress, the baptisms, the weddings, the funerals, the youth programs, the young people you nurtured and sent to the world.

Two hundred fifty years of loving and serving in Christ's name! God alone has mind and memory great enough to know them all. But, we can gather to remember, to celebrate and to thank God for those who have prepared this place of ministry for us.

I am pleased by this letter to be a voice from the larger church joining your service of thanksgiving to God for your church.

Warmest regards,


Peter M. Morgan

PMM:lm
enc: certificate

“It is a fact that Wheat Swamp Christian Church can trace her life back through great shadows to 1752. Her tributary Free Will Baptist connection is very long”

Rountree Chronicles 1927 - 1840

Page 16

C. C. Ware, Author

1947

Wheat Swamp Christian Church, Disciples of Christ is located approximately nine miles northwest of Kinston on Institute Road at the intersection of Institute Road and Wheat Swamp Road. Joseph Parker is known to have been one of the original founders of this great historical church. The first “meeting house” was located where the present day North Lenoir High School gymnasium now stands and served the community as a Free Will Baptist Church for almost a hundred years. It wasn’t until 1843 that the church became affiliated with the Disciples of Christ and changed its name from Wheat Swamp Free Will Baptist Church to Wheat Swamp Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. A new structure, at the present site was dedicated on May 2, 1858. Building was remodeled and expanded in 1908, 1944, 1954 and in 1975/1976 a steeple was added. Although Wheat Swamp has undergone many structural changes, the church has great historical significance as one of the oldest congregations in Lenoir County, providing a continuous ministry to the county since 1752.

The purpose of this church shall be as revealed in the New Testament, to win people to faith in Jesus Christ and commit them actively to the church, to help them grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ that increasingly they may know and do His will, and to work for the unity of all Christians and with them engage in the common task of building the Kingdom of God.

COME GROW WITH US

Wheat Swamp Church

Wheat Swamp Church was originally one of the General Baptist Churches established by Joseph Parker in eastern North Carolina in the late 1750's. It was probably an arm or branch of Little Creek Church, which Parker had earlier founded and served as pastor. Located about nine miles north west of Kinston, in Lenior County. Wheat Swamp Church was reportedly named after the swamp bearing the same name. The swamp was allegedly named after a Indian named Wheat who had taken refuge in the area.

For years, the Wheat Swamp congregation adhered to the teachings of Parker and the General Baptists. Because of a division of beliefs in the churches of the Bethel Conference, this church along with other members of the Bethel Conference of Free Will Baptists, formed in 1845 what became known as the Bethel Conference and Union Meeting of the Disciples of Christ or Christian Church. Since that time, Wheat Swamp has been affiliated with the Disciples of Christ or Christian Church.

Even though the present church is not Free Will Baptist, its initial formation under the leadership of Joseph Parker, whose grave site is near the church, and its association with the General Baptists of North Carolina (from which Free Will Baptists evolved) place it clearly in the center of early Free Will Baptist development.

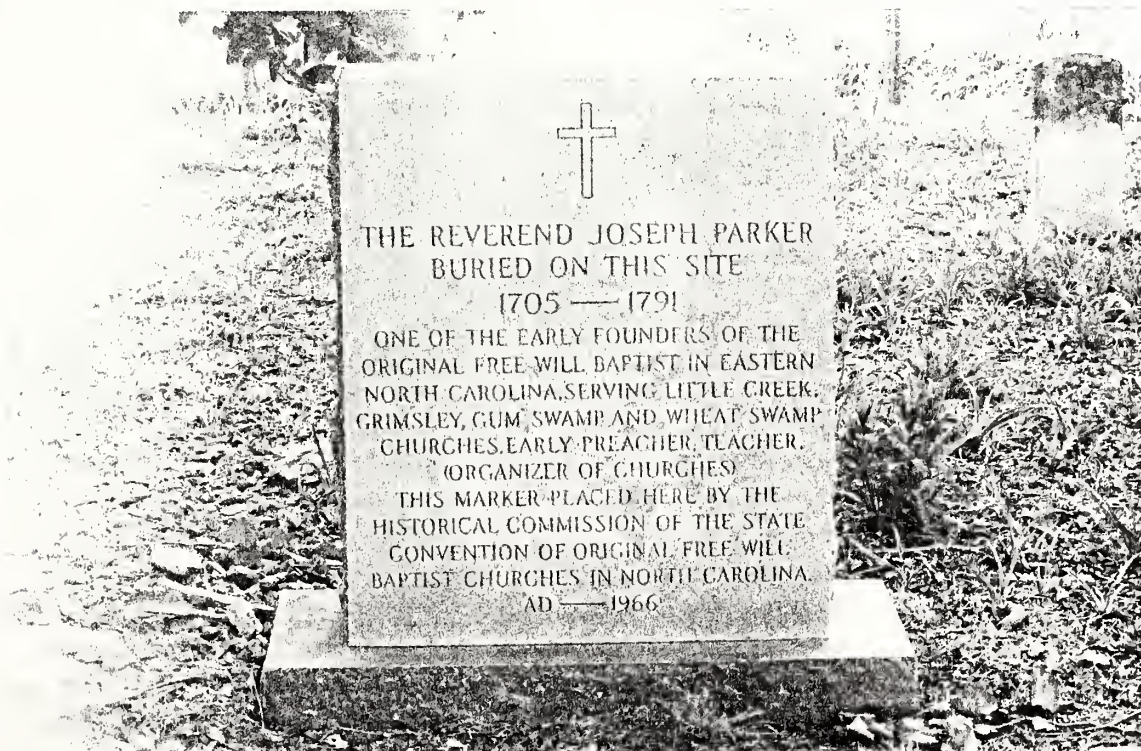
A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH PARKER

The role of Joseph Parker as a leader among the General Baptist of North Carolina in the 18th century has long been recognized. A native of Chowan Precinct in the Albemarle region, he was a member of the first General Baptist Church organized by Paul Palmer in 1727. By 1730 he had moved to what is now Hertford County and organized the church at Meherrin. About 1742 Parker moved again, this time to Edgecombe County, where he established the Lower Fishing Creek Church near Enfield.

His final relocation occurred in 1776 when he purchased 100 acres of land from Jacob Blount near Little Contentnea Creek in what was at that time Craven County (now Greene). By 1761 he had organized Little Creek Church, which soon had "arms" or branches at Wheat Swamp and Lousan Swamp in Dobbs (now Lenoir) county and at Gum Swamp in Pitt County. According to one view, Grimsley Church was first organized as an "arm" of Little Creek.

Little is known of the remaining years of Parker's life, except that he apparently spent those thirty or more years in this area. By whatever means he earned his living, his real vocation was the shepherding of the several congregations which he had gathered in these parts.

Joseph Parker came to the end of his earthly journey about 1791 and was laid to rest near Wheat Swamp Church. For that reason we commemorate the ministerial labors of this man and to pay tribute to his wise and capable leadership in maintaining faithfully those doctrines of faith which are characteristic of our churches to this day.



The following article was written by Charles C. Ware in his book "Hookerton History" dated 1960

WHEAT SWAMP

Nine miles northwest of Kinston is Wheat Swamp Christian Church. Historians say it has been there for two hundred and eight years, beginning as an independent Baptist congregation. It is on the old Hull road, near the village of Institute, and close to the stream whose name the church bears. In 1752 it was one of the 10 General, or Arminian Baptist Churches, which historians, with little documentation, say were in North Carolina, of that date. Later, (1754-1756) all of these 16 churches were raided by the Philadelphia Association Baptists who were Calvinistic in theology. Because the Philadelphia Baptists were much stronger in their organization and resources than these scattered Carolina Baptists in their primordial environment, they took over all but four of these original 16 churches. The four who held out against the all-but-overwhelming proselyting from Philadelphia, were: (1) Wheat Swamp, which for the interval from 1765 to 1843 was Free Will Baptist, but aligned November 11, 1843, openly with Disciples of Christ, joining in the resolution abolishing human creeds, (2) Pungo, five miles east of Belhaven, likewise connecting with Disciples in 1843; the church is now dead, but considerable remnants were builded into our Pantego and Belhaven churches, (3) Gum Swamp, near Greenville, remaining Free-Will Baptist, and (4) Lousan Swamp near the present Airy Grove Christian Church, which eventually went to the Union Baptists, and is now but a memory.

Four pioneer preachers of the General Baptists in eastern North Carolina remaining steadfast in their Faith were: Paul Palmer, Joseph Parker, William Parker, and John Winfield. Joseph Parker, the founder of Wheat Swamp, lived from 1705 to 1791. Writing 115 years ago, Dr. S. J. Wheeler said that Joseph Parker had been described by an associate as "a square-built man, with broad face, about five feet, eight inches high, and in his later years wore on his head a cap continually. His manner of preaching was full of animation." Wheeler added that Parker "was buried in Robert Wyrington's burial ground on Wheat Swamp," and "no monument marks the spot where his ashes repose." He was remembered as a "consistent Christian, a zealous and successful minister." Further, quoting historian Wheeler, "Here [at Wheat Swamp] he and his wife lived in limited circumstances supported by a few members of the Free-Will Baptist Church—In Dobbs County (since divided into Wayne, Lenoir and Greene Counties), Elder Parker was highly esteemed. It was to this county his labors were mostly confined, rarely preaching at any other place but at Wheat Swamp, near which church he settled. . . . James Roach a Freewill minister from Craven County took charge of the churches on Wheat Swamp and Loosing Swamp on the demise of Elder Parker and under his labors the churches were revived and greatly increased."

Francis Asbury, (1745-1816), famous itinerating Bishop, came to the vicinity in 1799. The home of William Cox which he mentioned was a few miles southeast of the present Grifton. Rainbow Methodist is a neighboring church a short distance north of Wheat Swamp.

Quoting Asbury's Journal:

Thursday, Feb. 21, 1799. We came to Newbern, originally stttled by Germans, and called after old Berne in Switzerland. For sixteen miles of this road we had heavy rain; but I was well cased up, notwithstanding which I took cold. . . .

Monday, Feb. 25, 1799. It was cold to purpose, and we had twenty-four miles to ride to William Cox's, on Neuse, near the mouth of Contentney. . . .

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 1799. I did not attend at the Rainbow meeting house, in consequence of my illness, the effect of my riding in the cold the day before. . . .

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 1799. I was comforted in administering the sacrament.

A member of Wheat Swamp living through its transition to the Disciples was Jesse Kennedy, born Jan. 1, 1781; died May 25, 1856. Dr. John T. Walsh said of him:

"He was baptized in the year, 1809, and united with the church at Wheat Swamp. During his long membership, near half a century, no charge of any sort was ever preferred against him. He was honest and upright in all his dealings. The hand of want was never stretched out to him in vain. He was benevolent to the poor, and liberal to the cause of Christ."

Annual State Meetings of the Bethel Conference were held at Wheat Swamp in 1835, 1840, and 1843, and for Disciples in 1853, 1858, 1868, and 1884. The Convention of 1843 was truly epochal since the resolution which was adopted practically aligned 25 preachers and the most of 32 churches in 13 counties, enrolling 1856 members, in eastern North Carolina with the Union Meeting of Disciples of Christ, the formal merger being effected less than two years later.

The resolution was presented at Wheat Swamp by Thomas J. Latham, on Nov. 11, 1843:

Whereas: Division among Christians is a promiscuous evil—anti-christian, as it destroys the visible unity of the body of Christ, as if he were divided against himself, excluding and excommunicating a part of himself—Anti-scriptural, as being strictly prohibited by his Sovereign Authority; a direct violation of His express command—anti-natural, as it excites Christians to continue to hate and oppose one another, who are bound by the highest and most endearing obligations to love each other as brethren, "even as Christ loved" them. And whereas this Conference is desirous of removing every difficulty from the minds of such members of the church of Christ as are wishful to unite on the "faith once delivered to the saints." Therefore:

Resolved that this Conference consider each church of Christ composed of its Elders, Deacons, and other members, as the highest ecclesiastical tribunal recognized in the New Testament, and therefore disclaims any ecclesiastical or controlling power over the churches of Christ as are willing to unite with us, on the Holy Scriptures, as the Rule of Faith and Discipline, reserving to themselves, respectively, the right to interpret the same, for their own regulations, and that they be affectionately invited to represent themselves by Delegates in this Conference.

Near Wheat Swamp the old farm-house of Benjamin Parrott yet stands in Falling Creek Township. Other preachers at the earliest period most influential, at Wheat Swamp, colleagues of Parrott, were John P. Dunn, and Robert Bond. Twenty-seven of their representative laymen of the ante-bellum period were: Thomas P. Hartsfield, William B. White, Parrott M. Hardy, Walter Kennedy, Drury A. Hill, Pitt Hardy, R. F. Hodges, Dr. J. A. Hartsfield, W. T. Hart, H. Suggs, Reuben Barrow, Calvin Hartsfield, Simon E. Hodges, Alexander Wilson, Hugh P. Sutton, William Sutton, J. A. Hodges, P. W. Hart, S. P. Hardy, W. Daley, L. J. Mewborne, J. Hartsfield, N. C. Sutton, M. B. Creech, J. D. Hall, Noah Rouse, and W. Canady.

Their primitive house having served many long years gave way to their new building which continues as a part of their greatly improved plant of to-day. It was dedicated on May 23, 1858 by John T. Walsh, with the "hope that other churches may profit by her example and that many of our old dillapidated houses may give place to such structures as will be more in harmony with the purity, zeal, and liberality of Christianity." The contractor was John D. Hill; price \$500. The site was then deeded by M. B. Creech to the first trustees of record, William B. White, Parrott M Hardy, Walter Kennedy, and Drury A. Hill, Jr.

John T. Walsh held their revival in September, 1855, resulting in 40 additions, "among whom there was many of the most respectable citizens of the community." Four years later he came for seven days, baptizing 26. Closing his pastorate there in December, 1882, he said: "Having preached at Wheat Swamp many years both before and since the war and having received so many favors from many of the brethren and sisters, I have left them with regret, though I deemed it best there should be a change."

The state-wide women's missionary work of the Disciples was initiated at Wheat Swamp on October 5, 1876, during the annual State Meeting there. First officers: president, Mrs. S. R. Dixon; vice president, Miss Clara A. Dixon; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Sue Helen Draughon; recording secretary, Mrs. Winnie R. Tull; treasurer, Mrs. Noah Rouse. The original name was changed from "The Beneficent Society" to "The Sisters' Mission Workers of Disciples of Christ". Various names have followed until to-day it is called "The Christian Women's Fellowship." In the local unit at Wheat Swamp 19 women were active in 1893, as follows: Mesdames: Elizabeth C. White, Julia M. Hodges, S. E. Hodges, Addie Moseley, S. A. Hill, Hettie M. Aldridge, Lanna Moore, Myrtle Wilson, S. E. Creech, Zadie Kennedy, Sue Hardy, Elizabeth Taylor, Martha Moseley, Trudie Dawson; and Misses: Hattie Wilson, Lizzie S. Hill, Clyde Sutton, Ruth Kennedy, and Lucretia Allen.

Some of their church clerks since 1869 have been: Reuben Barrow, E. L. Sutton, Franklin Dail, Paul A. Hodges, J. M. Creech, and J. Paul Hill. The church was grouped with Eden, Hookerton and Hebron, in 1881; minister Josephus Latham; salary, \$400.

As of record their church school began in 1889, a late start. It then enrolled 35, including 3 officers and teachers; average attendance, 30; "paid for literature," \$1; "value of library," \$4.

On Oct. 1, 1944, G. H. Sullivan closed a long pastorate there, assembling that day \$4900 with which to recondition the plant. Stained glass windows were installed, and new church school rooms were completed late in 1947, adding "materially to the uses of the old Wheat Swamp building for educational and social service." However, two years later it was reported: "The large Sunday School rooms recently erected are now inadequate, making it necessary to use the Kitchen for an overflow class." They sent Kenneth Rouse and Roland Jones as ministerial students to the college at Wilson. Mrs. Roscoe Herring was president of their C.W.F. The church elders were: Ray W. Jones, Troy J. Rouse, Roscoe Herring, Hugh Hardy, John Dail, and George Rouse.

C. C. Ware assisted their pastor, R. R. Miller, on June 1, 1952 in ordaining ten newly-elected officers as follows: elders: Gordon Aldredge, Jr., Jesse Earl Jones, Homer Hill; deacons: Lemuel Hardy, Jack Sutton, Pelt Worthington, Marion Rouse, Billy Emerson, William Jones, C. W. Rouse, Jr.

A Wheat Swamp ordination to the ministry was that of W. H. Montgomery, student at Wilson, on April 4, 1954. He then became their first full-time pastor. A six-room brick parsonage near the church was completed, and an early retirement of the \$3000 debt thereby incurred was planned.

On Feb. 12, 1956 several new members of the church board were installed, when Ross J. Allen, state secretary, "delivered a very inspiring and challenging message." Later the board was functionally organized. Morgan McKinney, their first full-time resident pastor, held their revival in September, 1958, with 16 additions. An organ was installed; a church constitution was adopted; a silver communion service was given by L. J. Sutton, oldest member; and choir robes and Christian Worship Hymnals were acquired.

It was decided that to meet the needs of steady expansion, the plant should be forthwith remodelled again and more church school rooms added. In October 1959, their building committee, Harold Kennedy, chairman, assembled \$7200 in cash and pledges with which to start an enlarging reconstruction.

Mrs. Floyd Gray, Sr. serves as the chosen local church historian. She hopes to get a proper and permanent marker erected there, memorializing the church for the general public.

Membership at Wheat Swamp is 294.

Roll of Ministers at Wheat Swamp:

1765-1791	Joseph Parker	1920-1925	Perry Case
1792-1800.....	James Roach	1926, 1927.....	W. C. Greer
1843-1860—	Robert Bond, Benjamin	1928	R. F. Bristol
Parrott, John P. Dunn, J. T.		1929-1931.....	F. W. Wiegmann
Walsh.		1932-1944	G. H. Sullivan
1881, 1882.....	John T. Walsh	1945, 1946.....	W. I. Bennett
1883.....	Josephus Latham	1947-1950.....	Rabon A. Rose
1884, 1888, 1889.....	H. D. Harper	1951	Horace S. Garriss
1890-1901.....	S. W. Sumrell	1952, 1953.....	R. R. Miller
1903, 1904.....	D. H. Petree	1954.....	A. D. Barber
1908-1915	C. W. Howard	1955, 1956	W. A. Ballinger
1916, 1917.....	S. Lee Sadler	1957.....	Vere Rogers
1918	W. S. Martin	1958, 1959	M. C. McKinney
1919.....	Joel E. Vause	1960.....	James M. Mahoney

written by Charles C. Ware
 "Hookerton History" dated 1960

Congregations attend Wheat Swamp Church

Nine miles northwest of Kinston is Wheat Swamp Christian Church.

Historians say it has been there for 208 years, beginning as an independent Baptist congregation.

It is on the old Hull Road near Institute and close to the stream whose name the church bears.

In 1752, it was one of the 16 General, or Armenian Baptist, churches which historians — with little documentation — say were in North Carolina.

From 1754 to 1756, all of these churches were raided by the Philadelphia Association Baptists who were Calvinistic in theology.

Because the Philadelphia Baptists were much stronger in their organization and resources than these scattered Carolina Baptists in their primordial environment, they took over all but four of these original 16 churches.

The four that held out include Wheat Swamp; Pungo, five miles east of Belhaven; Gum Swamp, near Greenville; and Lousan Swamp, near the present Airy Grove Christian Church.

Four pioneer preachers of the General Baptists in eastern North Carolina remaining steadfast in their faith were: Paul Palmer, Joseph Parker, William Parker and John Winfield.

Joseph Parker, founder of Wheat Swamp, lived from 1705 to 1791.

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The statewide women's missionary work of the Disciples was initiated at Wheat Swamp Oct. 5, 1876 during the annual state meeting there.

Record show their church school began in 1889. It enrolled 35, including three officers and teachers; average attendance was 30; "paid for literature" was \$1; the "value of library" was \$4.

On Oct. 1, 1944, G.H. Sullivan closed a long pastorate there, assembling that day \$4,900 with which to recondition the plant. Stained glass windows were installed, and new church school rooms were completed late in 1947.

However, two years later it was reported: "The large Sunday School rooms recently erected are now inadequate, making it necessary to use the kitchen for an overflow class."

Wheat Swamp then sent Kenneth Rouse and Roland Jones as ministerial students to the college at Wilson.

The church elders were: Ray W. Jones, Troy J. Rouse, Roscoe Herring, Hugh Hardy, John Dail and George Rouse.

C.C. Ware assisted their pastor, R.R. Miller, June 1, 1952,

Membership at Wheat Swamp is 407.

The roll of ministers at Wheat Swamp includes:

Joseph Parker, 1765-1791; James Roach, 1792-1800; Robert Bond, Benjamin Parrott, John P. Dunn and J.T. Walsh, 1843-1860; John T. Walsh, 1881-1882; Josephus Latham, 1883; H.D. Harper, 1884, 1888-1889; S.W. Sumrell, 1890-1901; D.H. Petree, 1903-1904; C.W. Howard, 1908-1915; S. Lee Sadler, 1916-1917; W.S. Martin, 1918; Joel E. Vause, 1919; Perry Case, 1920-1925; W.C. Greer, 1926-1927; R.F. Bristol, 1928; F.W. Wiegmann, 1929-1931; G.H. Sullivan, 1932-1944; W.I. Bennett, 1945-1946; Rabon A. Rose, 1947-1950; Horace S. Garriss, 1951; R.R. Miller, 1952-1953; A.D. Barber, 1954; W.A. Ballinger, 1955-1956; Vere Rogers, 1957; M.C. McKinney, 1958-1959; James M. Mahoney, 1960-1962.

Up Date: Norman Polk, 1963-1965; Kenneth Hughes, 1965-1966; Leslie Wilkins, 1967-1972; William Roberts, 1973-1981; James Hull, 1982-1991; Dr. Jerry Burton 1991.

This history was submitted by Dorothy S. Byrd, Charles Crossfield Ware, Dr. Jerry Burton and Edna R. Daughety.

Submitted by
Faye Dail Ross

Founding Fathers

Four men are generally considered “founding fathers” of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Each made significant, unique and enduring contributions to the emerging movement.



Alexander Campbell was born September 12, 1788 in the County of Antrim, Ireland. He was raised as a Presbyterian. He attended the University of Glasgow, Scotland.



In 1809, Alexander arrived in America from Scotland, and joined his father, Thomas, in western Pennsylvania. He carefully read and fully endorsed the principles of Thomas' *Declaration and Address*. Biographer Nathaniel Haynes says that Thomas and Alexander Campbell were "one in their aims, spirit and work."

The younger Campbell was a prolific writer. In 1823, he founded the periodical *The Christian Baptist*. After the Reformers dissolved ties with the Baptists, Campbell founded a new publication called *The Millennial Harbinger*. He was a talented debater, and in 1829 drew attention to the Restoration

Movement in a widely known debate with social reformer Robert Owen. In 1837, he engaged the Roman Catholic John B. Purcell, archbishop of Cincinnati, in a widely publicized *eight day* debate on the traditions and beliefs of the Catholic Church.

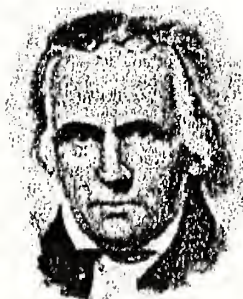
His public speaking skills, writing, and articulation of the place of reason (but not *pure rationalism*) in Christian faith propelled him into the leadership of the "Disciples of Christ."

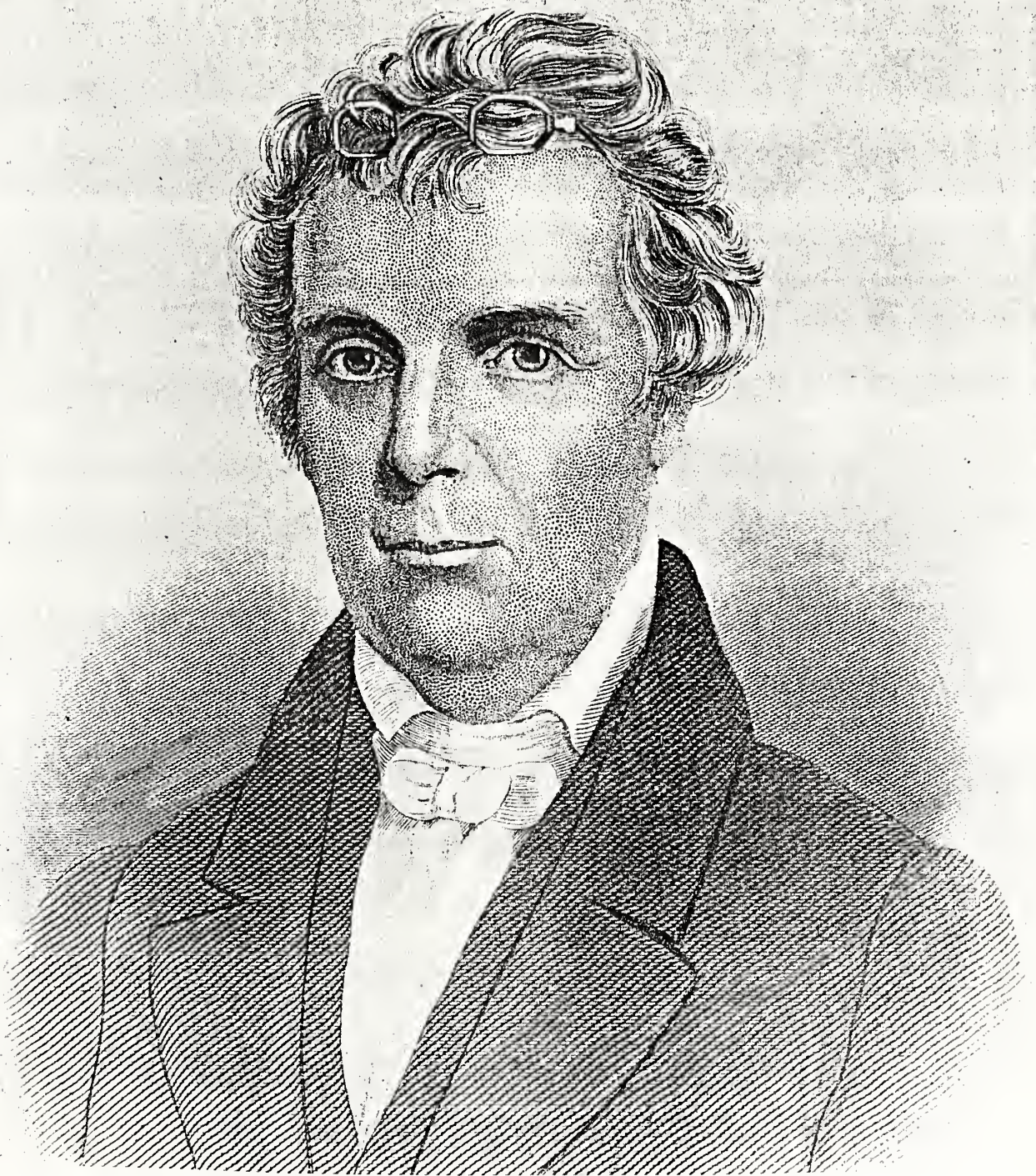
A dedicated scholar and educator, Alexander Campbell founded Bethany College, Bethany, Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1840 and served as the school's first president.



Thomas Campbell was born in County Down, Ireland, February 1, 1763. He died in Bethany, Virginia (now West Virginia), January 4, 1854. He came to America from Scotland in 1807. He was chastised by Pennsylvania church authorities for refusing to use Presbyterian creeds as terms of communion. In 1808 he and others founded the Christian Association of Washington, Pennsylvania. That group adopted the motto, well-known by Disciples, "Where the scriptures speak, we speak; where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent."

Campbell and others were called "Reformers," for their desire to restore the Church's first century roots. This way of life came to be known as the "Restoration Movement."





Presbyterian minister Barton W. Stone was born in Port Tobacco, Maryland, December 24, 1772. He died in Hannibal Missouri, November 9, 1844. Stone was educated as a school teacher and entered the ministry through the Presbyterian Church. He served a church in Cane Ridge Kentucky, and after hosting the historic Cane Ridge Revival of 1801, he and several others formed the *Springfield Presbytery* denouncing all human creeds and appealing to the Bible as the only rule of faith and practice.



They soon dissolved the *Springfield Presbytery*, and published the *Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery*, one of the documents the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) considers key in its development. They dissolved their denominational ties to enter into unity with "the body of Christ at large." They called themselves, simply, "Christians."



Walter Scott (1796-1861) born in Scotland, came to America in 1818. Reached the conviction that the only necessary fact for Christian faith was a single statement that "Jesus is the Christ". In 1821-22 he met Alexander Campbell and discovered that he agreed with the Campbells on the main features of their program for Christian union.



Walter Scott (1796-1861) born in Scotland, came to America in 1818. Reached the conviction that the only necessary fact for Christian faith was a single statement that "Jesus is the Christ". In 1821-22 he met Alexander Campbell and discovered that he agreed with the Campbells on the main features of their program for Christian union.

Wheat Swamp Church Ministers

1765 - 1791	Joseph Parker
1792 - 1800	James Roach
1809	Jesse Kennedy
20 years	John F. Jones **
1843 - 1860	Robert Bond
	Benjamin Parrott
	John P. Dunn
	Levi Braxton
	J. T. Walsh
1881 - 1882	John T. Walsh
1883	Josephus Latham
1884, 1888, 1889	H. D. Harper
1885	Revival John Walsh - 40 people baptized
1890 - 1903	S. W. Sumrell
1903 - 1904	D. H. Petree
11/5/1905	C. W. Howard - first sermon ***
1908 - 1915	C. W. Howard
1916 - 1917	S. Lee Sadler
1918	W. S. Martin
1919	Joel E. Vause
1920 - 1925	Perry Case
1926 - 1927	W. E. Greer
1928	R. F. Bristol
1929 - 1931	F. W. Wiegmann
1932 - 1944	G. H. Sullivan
11/5/44 - 10/5/47	W. I. Bennett ***
1947 - 1950	Rabon A. Rose
1951	Horace S. Garris
1952 - 1953	R. R. Miller
4/4/1954	W. H. Montgomery - ordained - 1 st full time minister ***
1954	A. D. Barber
1955 - 1956	W. A. Ballinger
1957	Vere Rogers
1958 - 1959	Morgan McKinney - 1 st full time resident minister to live in parsonage
1960 - 1962	James Mahoney
1963 - 1964	Norman Polk
1965 - 1966	Kenneth Hughes
8/27/66 - 12/31/73	Leslie L. Wilkins
1973 - 1981	William Roberts
8/2/81 - 2/28/82	Jerry Burton, Interim
3/1/82 - 3/31/91	James Hull
8/1991 - 1/1996	Jerry Burton
2/1/96 - 3/15/97	James Hull, Interim
3/16/97 - 12/31/99	Ross Walters
11/1/99 - 1/31/01	Leslie L. Wilkins, Interim
2/1/01 - present	H. C. Turner
1965 - 1960	gathered from Hookerton History by C. C. Ware
**	As per article in History of Greene County by James M. Creech as submitted by Ray W. Jones
***	taken from clerks records of Wheat Swamp Church

HISTORICAL TIMELINE				
DATE	OUR CONGREGATION	DATE	UNITED STATES AND WORLD	
1752	FIRST BUILDING WAS MADE OF LOGS	1752	BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PROVED THAT LIGHTNING	
	WITH A SAND FLOOR AND WAS LOCATED		IS ELECTRICITY BY FLYING A KITE	
	WHERE NORTH LENOIR HIGH SCHOOL			
	NOW STANDS (ONLY ONE ROOM)	1752	FLAG MAKER BETSY ROSS WAS BORN	
1765-1843	SERVED THE COMMUNITY AS A FREE WILL	1773	BOSTON TEA PARTY TOOK PLACE	
	BAPTIST CHURCH	1775	THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR BETWEEN THE BRITISH	
			AND THE COLONISTS STARTED	
		1776	DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE SIGNED AND	
			THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WAS FORMED	
		1789	NORTH CAROLINA BECAME THE 12TH STATE OF U.S.	
		1789	GEORGE WASHINGTON CHOSEN AS 1ST	
			PRESIDENT (NOT ELECTED)	
		1814	FRANCIS SCOTT KEY WROTE "THE STAR-SPANGLED	
			BANNER"	
		1837	SAMUEL MORSE DEMONSTRATED 1ST TELEGRAPH	
			IN THE UNITED STATES	
1841	CHURCH MEMBERSHIP - 118			
1842	CHURCH MEMBERSHIP - 140	1842	THE CITADEL, THE MILITARY COLLEGE OF SOUTH	
1842	ELDER JOHN JONES ERASED FROM LIST OF		CAROLINA WAS FOUNDED	
	PREACHERS AS PER HIS REQUEST ***			
1843	NOVEMBER 9TH, 10TH, 11TH AND 12TH THE			
	ANNUAL BETHEL CONFERENCE WAS HELD	1843	1ST OVERLAND CARAVAN WENT TO OREGON	
	AT WHEAT SWAMP MEETING HOUSE (AS PER		TERRITORY	
	CC WARE, TAR HEEL DISCIPLE 1841-1852)			
1843	CHURCH MEMBERSHIP - 190			
1845	CHURCH MEMBERSHIP - 175	1845	TEXAS AND FLORIDA ENTERED THE UNION AS	

1846	CHURCH MEMBERSHIP - 172			SLAVE STATES
1847	CHURCH MEMBERSHIP - 164		1847	1ST U.S. POSTAGE STAMP WAS ISSUED
1848	CHURCH MEMBERSHIP - 163		1848	MEXICAN WAR VICTORY GAVE U.S. NEW TERRITORY IN THE WEST
			1849	CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH
1850	CHURCH MEMBERSHIP - 241		1850	CALIFORNIA WAS ADMITTED TO THE UNION
1853	MEETING ON 4TH LORDS DAY IN OCT, JAN, APRIL AND JULY A PLEA WAS MADE TO HELP FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE MINISTERS OF THE DISCIPLES CHURCH IN N.C. "ASK EACH MEMBER TO CONTRIBUTE FOUR CENTS A WEEK TO AID IN EMPLOYING AT LEAST THREE EVANGELIST"****			
1855	REVIVAL HELD BY JOHN WALSH, MINISTER WITH 40 PEOPLE BEING BAPTIZED ***		1855	NURSE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE REFORMED NURSING
1858	BUILDING ERRECTED BY PREACHER-ELDER JOHN HILL (OUR 1ST BUILDING ON CURRENT SITE) ERRECTED FOR A COST OF \$500.00		1858	1ST ELECTRIC BURGLAR ALARM WAS INSTALLED
1865	CHURCH USED BY NORTHERN SOLDIERS FOR HOUSING DURING THE CIVIL WAR		4-4-1865	ASSASINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN
			1865	SHERMAN PUSHED THROUGH SC AND NC AND LEE SURRENDERED AT APPOMATTOX
			1865	13TH AMENDMENT OUTLAWED SLAVERY THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES
			1865	THE RAM NEUSE WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE AND SUNK. KINSTON MAYOR MADE A FORMAL SURRENDER OF THE TOWN AND NORTHERN TROOPS TOOK POSSESSION OF THE TOWN
1874	CWF WAS ORGANIZED		1874	1ST ZOO IN U.S. OPENED IN PHILADELPHIA
				OVER 3000 VISITORS PAID (25 CENTS PER ADULT/10 CENTS PER CHILD) TO SEE

			THE 1000 ANIMALS HOUSED AT THE ZOO
1876	1ST CWF MEETING WAS HELD AT WHEAT SWAMP (19 ACTIVE MEMBERS IN 1893)	1876	ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL INVENTED THE TELEPHONE
		1877	THOMAS EDISON INVENTED THE PHONOGRAPH
		1879	EDISON INVENTED THE ELECTRIC LIGHT
		1879	F.W. WOOLWORTH OPENED FIRST 5 & 10 STORE
		1884	FRANCE GAVE STATUE OF LIBERTY TO THE U.S.
1889	1ST SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTED WITH 35 ENROLLED (3 TEACHERS). LITERATURE COST \$1.00 AND THE VALUE OF CHURCH LIBRARY WAS \$4.00	1889	THE COLUMBIA PHONOGRAPH COMPANY WAS FORMED IN WASHINGTON, DC
		1895	X RAYS WERE DISCOVERED
		1896	CHRISTMAS DAY THE MELODY "THE STARS & STRIPS FOREVER" BY JOHN PHILIP SOUSA WAS FINALLY TITLED
		1902	J.C. PENNEY OPENED 1ST STORE IN WYOMING KNOWN AS "GOLDEN RULE."
		1903	WRIGHT BROTHERS MADE 1ST SUCCESSFUL AIRPLANE FLIGHT AT KITTY HAWK, NC
1905	11-05 OFFERING WAS \$3.70 CONTRIBUTED TO BROTHER PETREE'S LAST YEARS SALARY ***	1905	1ST PORTABLE VACUUM CLEANER MARKETED
1905-1912	WORSHIP SERVICE WAS HELD ONCE A MONTH ***		WEIGHING 92 POUNDS
1905	11-05 C.W. HOWARD CALLED AS MINISTER FOR \$100.00 PER YEAR	1906	MILK CARTONS WERE INTRODUCED
1906	09-02 COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO TAKE THE WORK OF REMODELING THE CHURCH, A.C. WHITE, W.W. BROTHERS & J.T. KENNEDY ***	1906	PHOTO COPIER WAS PATENTED
1908	MARCH - WORSHIPPED AT INSTITUTE "OWING TO UNFINISHED CONDITION OF OUR CHURCH***	1906	SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE & FIRE
1908	MAY - "TOOK UP COLLECTION TO DEFRAY THE	1908	HENRY FORD INTRODUCED THE MODEL T SELLING FOR \$850.00 (BY 1926 PRICE WENT DOWN TO \$310.00)

	EXPENSE OF THE COUNTY AGAINST SALOONS			
	FOLLOWING A SERMON ON PROHIBITION"***			
1908	JUNE 7 - "FOR THE 1ST TIME SINCE JANUARY			
	1908, WORSHIPING IN OUR OWN BUILDING			
	HAVING BEEN REMODELED FROM TOP TO			
	BOTTOM, THOROUGHLY REPAIRED. A NEW HOME			
	OF WHICH WE CAN BE JUSTLY PROUD" ***			
		1910	BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA FOUNDED	
1911	OFFERING \$2.56 (PAGE 125 CLERKS RECORDS)***	1911	1ST PASSENGER AIR-FARE PAYING FLIGHT	
		1912	TITANTIC HIT ICEBURG AND SANK	
		1912	JULIETTE GORDON LOW FOUNDED THE GIRL	
			GUIDES WHICH LATER BECAME THE GIRL	
			SCOUTS OF AMERICA	
		1912	WILSON ELECTED PRESIDENT	
		1914	WORLD WAR I BEGUN	
		1918	WORLD WAR I ENDED	
1919	10/4 - PAUL HILL APPOINTED CHURCH CLERK***	1919	ERNEST RUTHERFORD SPLITS ATOM FOR 1ST TIME	
		1919	CONGRESS ESTABLISHED THE GRAND	
			CANYON NATIONAL PARK IN ARIZONA	
		1921	RELIGIOUS SERVICES WERE BROADCAST ON THE	
			RADIO FOR 1ST TIME AS KDKA IN PITTSBURG	
			AIRD THE REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES OF THE	
			CITYS CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH	
		1928	PENICILLIN WAS DISCOVERED	
		1929	THE STOCK MARKET CRASHED	
1930	KEROSENE LAMPS WERE REPLACED WITH	1930	THE GREAT DEPRESSION BEGAN	
	ELECTRICITY ***	1930	INDIAN POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADER,	
			MOHANDES K GANDHI BEGAN A 200 MILE	
			MARCH TO PROTEST A BRITISH TAX ON SALT.	

1931	JANUARY 4 PAID 1ST ELECTRIC BILL \$1.46 ***	1931	THE 1ST EPISODE OF THE "LONE RANGER" RADIO PROGRAM WAS BROADCAST ON STATION WXYZ IN DETROIT
		1931	THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING WAS DEDICATED
		1931	STAR SPANGLED BANNER BECAME THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE UNITED STATES
		1941	PEARL HARBOR WAS BOMBED AND THE U.S. ENTERED WORLD WAR II
		1945	WORLD WAR II ENDED
1947	CHURCH SCHOOL ROOMS, BAPTISTERY AND KITCHEN WERE ADDED TO THE BACK OF THE ORIGINAL BUILDING ***	1947	A ROYAL WEDDING ON 11-20-47, PRINCESS ELIZABETH (WHO WOULD BE QUEEN IN 4 YEARS) AND L.T. PHILIP MOUNTBATTEN WERE MARRIED
1947	STAIN GLASS WINDOWS WERE INSTALLED		
1947	9/7 NEW BAPTISTERY USED WITH 19 ADDITIONS***		
		1950	KOREAN WAR STARTED
		1953	KOREAN WAR ENDED
1954	SINCE 1954 HAVE HAD FULL TIME MINISTER AND SERVICES EACH SUNDAY***		
		1955	POLIO VACCINE WAS DEVELOPED
1958	ORGAN PURCHASED ***	1958	THE US ENTERED THE SPACE AGE WITH ITS 1ST SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF A SATELLITE INTO ORBIT FROM THE EXPLORER I FROM CAPE CANAVERAL
1958	MEMBERSHIP WAS 268		
1959	MEMBERSHIP WAS 294		
1960	17 ROOM EDUCATIONAL UNIT WAS COMPLETED	1960	KENNEDY WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT
1960	PARSONAGE WAS BUILT		
		1961	ASTRONAUT ALAN B SHEPARD BECAME THE 1ST AMERICAN IN SPACE
		1965	AMERICAN COMBAT TROOPS ENTERED THE VIETNAM WAR

		1969	ASTRONAUT NEIL ARMSTRONG BECAME 1ST PERSON TO SET FOOT ON THE MOON
		1975	THE VIETNAM WAR ENDED
1976	THE INTERIOR OF THE ORIGINAL SANCTUARY WAS REVERSED. THE CHANCEL, BAPTISTRY, NEW PEWS, CHANCEL FURNITURE, CARPET, STEEPLE AND CHIME SYSTEM WERE ADDED	1976	U.S. OFFICIALLY OBSERVED ITS 200TH BIRTHDAY
1978	FIRST CHRISMON TREE WITH 105 ORNAMENTS	1978	3 AMERICANS COMPLETED THE 1ST TRANSATLANTIC BALLOON FLIGHT
1979	A PARCEL OF 6 1/2 ACRES OF LAND WAS PURCHASED FROM THE PAUL HILL FAMILY AND A FELLOWSHIP RECREATIONAL BUILDING AND PARK WAS PLANNED	1979	ACTOR JOHN WAYNE DIED AT AGE 72
1983	OCTOBER 2 - GROUND BREAKING SERVICES FOR FELLOWSHIP PARK		
1984	FELLOWSHIP BUILDING WAS COMPLETED AND DEDICATED	1984	"WHERE'S THE BEEF" FAMOUS COMMERCIAL CAMPAIGN WAS 1ST SEEN ON TV
1985	OCTOBER 6 - PERMANENT FUND ESTABLISHED	1985	PETE ROSE BROKE THE MAJOR LEAGUE RECORD FOR HITS. HE CONNECTED FOR HIT NUMBER 4192 AGAINST ERIC SHOW OF SAN DIEGO
1986	JANUARY 9 - JOY CLUB ORGANIZED WITH 33 CHARTER MEMBERS	1986	MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY IS OBSERVED AS A U.S. FEDERAL HOLIDAY FOR THE 1ST TIME
1988	WHEAT SWAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND WAS ESTABLISHED WITH A GIFT OF \$10,000.00	1988	GEORGE H. BUSH WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT
1989	BURNED MORTGAGE FOR FELLOWSHIP BUILDING (THE 10 YEAR MORTGAGE WAS PAID IN 6 YEARS) ***		
		1990	MCDONALDS CORP. OPENED ITS 1ST FAST-FOOD RESTAURANT IN MOSCOW

		1991	U.S. FORCES HELPED DEFEAT IRAQ IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR
1992	JUNE 6 - SPONSORED THE 1ST BACCALAUREATE SERVICE FOR THE GRADUATING SENIORS OF NORTH LENOIR HIGH SCHOOL ***	1992	U.S., CANADA AND MEXICO ANNOUNCE ACCORD ON A PLAN FOR FREE TRADE ACROSS NORTH AMERICA
1992	JULY 7- MEMBERSHIP WAS 409		
1995	JUNE 25 - MEMBERSHIP WAS 403/BUDGET FOR CHURCH FOR 1996 WAS \$91,650.00	1995	PRESIDENT PROPOSES A 1.61 TRILLION BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996
1996	DECEMBER - MEMBERSHIP WAS 396	1996	COMEDIAN GEORGE BURNS DIES AT AGE 100
2001	STEEPLE HAD TO BE REPLACED DUE TO WIND DAMAGE TO STEEPLE FOUNDATION	2001	SEPTEMBER 11 TERRORIST ATTACK ON U.S.
2002	JANUARY 1 - CHURCH MEMBERSHIP WAS 312		WORLD TRADE CENTER AND PENTAGON BOMBED
			***WHEAT SWAMP CHRISTIAN CHURCH HISTORICAL INFORMATION PER CLERK'S NOTES

MEMORIES

The following pages contain personal memories shared with the anniversary committee. A special thank you to every one who made contributions to this section.

REMEMBER WHEN

DO YOU REMEMBER

When the ladies sat on the one side of the sanctuary and the men on the opposite side??

When all Sunday School Classes met in the sanctuary--there were no Sunday School rooms??

When discipline of disruptive children was handled by taking them outside under the big oak tree (before sanctuary was reversed). They had to only be taken one time to the tree to learn an important lesson???

When CWF ladies kept the nursery during revival services??

When there was only two bathrooms in the building - one was located next to the kitchen; approximately where the front entrance is now located???

When paper fans were used to keep cool (always donated by a local funeral home)???

When we had no baptistery and baptismal's were held at Gray's Mill???

When we had "hitching post" for the horses and buggies???

When hog wire would be tightly stretched between trees to serve as our "tables" for homecoming meals. We would cover with table cloths, fill with a good spread and then enjoy the good food and fellowship???

When the building was cleaned by our ladies???

When hot water was hauled from Rouse Dairy in milk cans to fill our first baptistery (our hot water heater was too small to fill the baptistery)???

When the sanctuary was heated by two coal heaters and Mr. Ray Jones would bring the splinters each week to start fire???

When the big oak tree was removed to allow renovation of our present sanctuary. Did you know that the tree was large enough to make an entire bedroom suite, and that bedroom suite is still being used today?

When families "visited" after services instead of rushing home. Many friends would not be seen until next service??

When we had a softball team??

When we had a kindergarten and day care in our educational building??

When we had an annual church picnic at Falling Creek Country Club as the guest of Mr. & Mrs. Dan Sutton??

When Mr. Roscoe Herring brought 10 gallon milk cans to our Homecoming dinners to mix tea for the meal??

When we sponsored a Boy Scout troop??

When we raised the windows during Revival services and fought the bugs that always came in??

When in 1949 at our Harvest Festival, a country ham was auctioned and sold for \$27.00??

When the men painted the church, replaced the roof on the parsonage and put shingles on the portico roof??

When we had to place chairs in all isles to seat the overflow attendance??

When we wore bathrobes as costumes for our Christmas pageants??

When we battled dust, flies and rain during our homecoming meals – eaten on the grounds of the church??

When real wine was used for our communion service (only once)??

The following letter written in 1934 by N.J.Rouse to Mrs. Julia Hodges has been shared with us by Mr. Francis R. Hodges (grandson of Mrs. Julia Hodges). We extend our thanks to Mr. Hodges for permission to make this document a part of our booklet

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From: N. J. Rouse
Rouse & Rouse
Attorneys and Counsellors at Law
102 * S. Queen Street
Kinston, N. C.

To: Mrs. Julia Hodges
LaGrange, N. C.

1 August, 1934

Dear Cousin Julia:

I deeply regret that your letter of June 18, coming as it did when I was very busy in Court, was overlooked until by chance I saw it again today. I am now trying to make amends by writing you promptly after I have discovered your letter.

I could probably have been of more service to you if I could have talked with you personally about some of the events of the past for there is much that might be said, but entirely too lengthy to write here; but the bare outline that I am undertaking to write you now I hope will be of some service to you in the preparation of your sketch of Wheat Swamp Church.

My recollection of Wheat Swamp Church extends back to about 1867 or 1868, for it was to that church that my father and mother regularly went on the second Sunday of each month, accompanied, in my earliest recollections, by my brother and me and as they became old enough, by my sisters, the family when full grown requiring for transportation over the seven miles distance a phaeton drawn by two horses, when mules were not used. Second Sunday, winter and summer, saw the Rouse family traveling to and from Wheat Swamp during my entire boyhood. It was seldom that a blizzard in winter was too severe to encounter and, as I remember, never in summer did the mercury ascend high enough or the sand grow deep enough to interfere with this pilgrimage.

When I first saw the church it was comparatively new, though not just built, probably then twenty-five or thirty years of age; there stood across the road on the side where the graded school building now

stands and a little distance east of the school building and nearer the road, the old church which had succumbed (sic) to the "corroding tooth of time" and to my memory only or rather principally, manifested the location of the pulpit which was a tall affair and stood as does the present pulpit, in the west end of the church. Besides the pulpit, my memory only pictures now decayed timbers lying prone and bearing witness to the distant days when christian hands built them into a church building. How far that old building extended back into the past, I do not accurately know, but I think to those rugged days beyond the Revolutionary War, for it is my recollection, or rather my understanding that the site of Wheat Swamp Church is one of if not the oldest site for christian worship in the entire confines of Lenoir County; and our good cousin, Albert Parrott, maintained that it was a historical fact, certainly a historical legend, that the original worshippers took their guns with them in attendance upon divine worship to defend themselves if occasion arose, against the savages known as the Cotechney (Contentnea) Indians who roamed in large numbers, the forests between the present site of Kinston and Snow Hill and surrounding country. However this may be, the old Church went back into the distant past beyond the actual memory of anyone now living or of their parents; so that it may truly be said that old Wheat Swamp is a sacred spot to the Disciples and to christians generally for there, for many generations the cross has been upheld by many heroic creatures of the past.

Of course, as a boy I could only be expected to remember personally a rather small coterie or circle of the friends of my father and mother, and among them those who stand out before my recollection most clearly are Simon Hodges and his wife Persis; John T. Daly, your father; Walter Kennedy, Miller B. Creech, Richard B. Taylor, James M. Mewborne, Alexander Wilson and others whom I might name if I thought it over for some time. They usually gathered at the church a half hour or more before services and talked over current topics until the preacher had arrived and some voice on the inside raised the opening hymn, How Firm a Foundation, There is a Fountain, or like familiar tunes, during the singing of which the brethren (sic) from the outside and the sisters, if they had lingered, went promptly into the church, the men scrupulously sitting to the left and the women to the right of the main isle (sic). To have failed to act according to this custom would doubtless have caused very general comment if it had not startled the entire congregation. It was at one of those pre-sermon conferences under the shade of the trees at Wheat Swamp that the first cotton reduction cooperative agreement that I ever heard of was entered into; your father, my father and about a half dozen other farmers agreeing among themselves to help curtail the acreage for the succeeding year by reducing 25 %; and as the conference broke up and the conferees were entering the church to hear the sermon, one of the participants (not your father, not my father) smilingly said to a young man who was accompanying him in the church when asked how much he would reduce next year replied that he was going to increase his 25 % and let the others do the reducing. This has been the bane of crop reduction the intervening years until the Government took a hand. This incident will only serve to give you a glimpse of what has been occurring before the sermon at old Wheat Swamp during the generations gone by.

As I recall the first pastor whom I knew of at Wheat Swamp, that is in the late 60s and early 70s, was Gideon Allen of Farmville, a brother of N. J. Allen, formerly a resident of Institute Township, a good brick-mason. I wish I could give you a complete roster of the fine preachers of the past who have served during my recollection as pastors of old Wheat Swamp. Doubtless the following is not complete, but these names come to my memory now: George Joyner, Dr. Henry D. Harper and while I am not sure they were pastors, frequently preaching here, Joseph H. Foy, John J. Harper and Josephus Latham. Your own recollection will supply a number that I have not named as faithfully serving the church during your recollection. I have only tried to bring out of the past names which

possibly some have forgotten or never known. In no sense must this letter be deemed anything more than suggestive of what one might write concerning so great a church as Wheat Swamp, for I think it can truly be said that when consideration is given to the long existence of this church and to the people that have composed its membership for the period of probably nearly 200 years of its existence, that no one agency in the county of Lenoir has done more to elevate its citizenship and to bring the people of the county to that high standard of appreciation of the value of christianity and of the transcendent importance in life of trying to follow "the way," as pointed out and inculcated by our Saviour than has old Wheat Swamp church. In this connection due weight and importance must be given to my full meaning which is that from that source has gone out throughout the entire county during the years that have gone by, to the worthy and influential and beloved people who have had their membership there, the finest precepts and example in the respects referred to which have permeated the entire county. This influence can not be valued in dollars and cents or accurately computed, but imagine what the county might have been but for the fine people that that during the generations past have lived within the radius of territory and who have been taught the principles of christianity there and my meaning will appear when I say that the influence of the church has been great and outstanding and will be handed down to the generations that are to come afterward.

I have probably written you too much; as you see it is of the utmost general character, not intended to be an accurate history, but I hope it may be of some service to you in accomplishing your task in writing a history of old Wheat Swamp Church.

With best wishes always,

Sincerely yours,

N. J. Rouse

NJR/MH

Legend of Two Churches In Wheat Swamp Recounted

(Editor's Note: The writer, a former Kinstonian, is business manager of the State Department of Community Colleges at Raleigh. He was co-author with the late Dr. T. C. Johnson of "The History of Kinston and Lenoir County," published some years ago.)

By CHARLES HOLLOMAN
Business Manager, State
Department of Community
Colleges

Some 10 miles northwest of Kinston on old Hull Road stands Wheat Swamp Christian Church in a charming rural setting.

It is a neat, white, but unimposing, church house, as simple and unassuming in its design as the lives of hundreds in the generations of farm folk who have worshipped there from childhood through their old age.

A July visitor finds the spot surrounded with Summer's green, while silence rests in the shade of its trees. Its grounds have long been hallowed by the hushed footfalls of the faithful. About its local history and local legend stand on an equal footing, for most of the factual records of its past have been burned or buried with the memories of departing generations.

First Settlers

First settlers came to this community in the early 1740's when it was still primeval wilderness. These first were mostly sturdy Quaker folk from the coastal counties.

As the influence and power of the government church — the Church of England — increased in the coastal area, many Quakers moved to this backwoods frontier. Here the collection of the tithe (tax) to support the Anglican Church could be avoided and the loss of civil rights by refusal to take the prescribed oath of conformity, or other prescribed oaths, led to no serious persecution.

From minutes of the Quaker

Quarterly Meeting in Perquimans County, it is noted that Quakers established their religious meetings on both upper and lower Falling Creek in the 1740's and 1750's. The Quaker meeting on upper Falling Creek was the first Christian organization established in the general vicinity of present Wheat Swamp Church.

As non-Quakers became prevalent in the area during the 1750's, most of the Quaker families moved farther inland into what is now Wayne County. There, many of them were living when the Revolutionary era came with its doctrine of religious freedom; and there Quaker congregations are still found to this day, religious descendants of the first settlers of the Falling Creek and Wheat Swamp areas of Lenoir County.

Some of these Quakers who migrated to the southside of the Neuse River below present Goldsboro thought so much of their old home on Lenoir County's Falling Creek they named another creek on the south side of Neuse River by the same name—Falling Creek — and built a Quaker meeting house nearby. The Quakers still have a church in that area.

Rev. Joseph Parker, a gentle but energetic Baptist preacher from the Albemarle Sound area, founded many Baptist churches in Eastern North Carolina during his long and fruitful lifetime. On December 25, 1756, he bought a tract of land from Jacob Blount in the present Scuffleton community of Greene County, near Edwards Bridge, and founded Little Contentnea Baptist Society. This was the beginning of the present Free Will Baptist Church at Scuffleton.

In 1778, Rev. Mr. Parker and his wife moved from Little Contentnea to the Wheat Swamp community, where he bought a tract of land from William Barfield and established the Wheat Swamp

Baptist Society. (In those days, the British authorities looked with great disfavor upon such "dissenters" calling their organization a "congregation" or their house of worship a "church." Hence the congregation was called a "society" and the house of worship was called a "meeting house." The names "congregation" and "church" were officially reserved for government-approved religious bodies and edifices).

The first church at Wheat Swamp was the log meeting house of the Baptist Society of Wheat Swamp. The original record of Rev. Joseph Parker's deed was recorded in 1778 in old Dobbs County records in Deed Book 10, pages 302 and 303. Modern reports that the first church at Wheat Swamp was built on land deeded to the Baptists by Matthew Moseley are not correct. Rev. Mr. Parker served the Wheat Swamp Church as pastor until his death in the 1790's.

Religious Firebrand

In 1845 a religious firebrand swept through many Baptist churches in Eastern North Carolina in the person of Rev. Alexander Campbell, a native of County Antrim, Ireland, of Presbyterian parentage.

Brother Campbell was dedicated to "the sole purpose of promoting simple evangelical Christianity" as a way to the union of all Christians in the world. He was the leader of a relatively new Society called Disciples of Christ, or Christians, sometimes nicknamed Campbellites. He

preached the necessity of restoring primitive Christian religion as the means of conversion of all mankind to Christian union.

The highly independent Baptist congregations — each congregation being a little religious democracy in governing its affairs — offered a fertile field for visitation by Mr. Campbell. He obtained an invitation to preach a series of sermons at the Wheat Swamp Baptist Meeting House, each to be followed open debate and discussion.

The result of his evangelization was that a majority of the Baptist Society of Wheat Swamp decided to join up with Brother Campbell's Society of Disciples of Christ. The minority who remained staunchly Free Will Baptist included some of the most prominent members of the Wheat Swamp Baptist congregation. This faction was led by Thomas Dawson.

Two Versions

From this point on there are two versions of the course of events at Wheat Swamp. The accepted version holds that Mr. Dawson and his Baptist faction promptly moved some three or four miles up Hull Road to the fork later named Arba (in Greene County) and built a new church, known ever since as the Hull Road Free Will Baptist Church. A more colorful version agrees with these basic facts but tends to fill in details full of human interest. Local historians have regarded this version as legend; but some evidence has turned up lately which

indicates that it may be true.

The "legend" is that the division among the Wheat Swamp brethren was very firm but far from un-Christian in spirit. Finding themselves utterly divided in convictions they prayed mightily for guidance from the Almighty and held nightly prayer meetings in the hope that their prayers would be answered. On the fourth night, a certain Brother Hill testified that on the night before he had a dream in which Christ had appeared to him with a message saying "Love ye one another and your prayers are answered."

Brother Hill described his dream with such sincerity and conviction that it made a great impression upon the entire congregation, according to the late Free Will Baptist minister Rev. Henry Sowers.

Hill then proposed that the whole congregation join in building another church house on ground nearby the old church grounds and that those who wanted to be Disciples would worship in one and those who wanted to remain Baptists would worship in the other. The proposal was approved.

All joined in putting up the other church building. From 1845 to 1868 worship at the two churches side by side continued. Then, one night the Baptist Church burned down. There was some suspicion; and it was whispered that a certain Disciple who had long held a dim view of the arrangement

might have felt inspired to set the fire. The congregation of Disciples sought to dispel this monstrous rumor by offering to join in rebuilding a new church house for their Baptist neighbors.

'Best to Relocate'

The Baptists, however, decided that it would be best to relocate. They went up Hull Road to the fork and built a new log church house at the place which the late Mrs. Evaline Hill some years named Arba when she was permitted to name the U. S. Post Office there. ("I wanted it to have a Bible name that would start with the first letter in the alphabet," she told this writer).

In its new location, the Baptist congregation prospered so well that on November 5, 6, 7, and 8, 1874, the Free Will Baptist Conference was held at the church. Likewise, the Disciples of Wheat Swamp prospered. The log churches from which both congregations started have long since been replaced and are almost forgotten, along with the details of how the worshippers divided and went their separate ways.

Some 30 years ago, the writer heard the legend of the two-church arrangement at Wheat Swamp, but concluded from the inconsistency of evidence that it probably was just another pretty story concocted by a kindly preacher to illustrate a lesson on brotherly love. Two very old natives of the area thought they could remember two churches being there before the Civil War. Sever-

al others of about the same ages could remember only one.

Recently there came to light a highly detailed map made by a Confederate Army officer who mapped practically every rural farm, woodland, stream, road, school house, church, mill, and dwelling in Lenoir County north of Neuse River and in all of Greene County, inserting names of churches and names of the owners of plantations, mills, etc. And, sure enough, there on the Confederate officer's map are two Wheat Swamp churches side by side. The date of the map is 1863, and no church is shown on it at the Arba fork, - only a school house and a dwelling house.

It is surprising how many rural churches of Lenoir and Greene Counties have existed for over a hundred years, according to the evidence of this highly informative map. It is also surprising that a legend, rejected on scientific principle by the research scholar, perhaps has preserved details of local history in some instances better than written records themselves.

There may be still living persons who can confirm or disprove the legend of the two churches at Wheat Swamp; but, if it is disproved, how shall we explain the tell-tale entry of the two churches at Wheat Swamp on Lieutenant Koerner's map in 1863 and his failure to note a church at the Arba fork? Perhaps someone can tell us.

Thank You to William Jones
for sharing this article
with us.

H.C. "Buddy " Turner, Minister February 2001 to present

James A. Michener is one of my favorite authors. His style is to take history and add a little imagination to fill in the blanks and tell a story. This is my feeble attempt to do just that. This article is in no way intended to be an accurate history.

FROM WHEAT'S SWAMP TO WHEAT SWAMP

The growth of a faith community

Wheat had been raised in the swamps north of what was later to be named the Neuse River all his life. His family and the tribe had called this place home for years. Much of the tribe had moved west as a result of something new and different that was taking place. Some strange looking people with strange names and language were starting to move into the area. They were a light skinned people with mild features. They had strange names like Creech, Dail, Hardy, Gray, Hill, Holder, Rouse, Sugg, Sutton, White, Jones. They spoke a babbling tongue that Wheat could not understand.

These strange new people grew in number. There were occasional conflicts between them and the Indians. The new people cleared more and more land for farming and built permanent homes. A community of white settlers began to develop. Wheat was able to co-exist with these new people. Eventually they began to call their new community after him, Wheat's Swamp.

One day a young man by the name of Joseph Parker came to their area. He was a Baptist preacher by calling. The people of the community realized the need for a place to worship God so they constructed a simple church house with a dirt floor. God blessed their endeavors to worship and witness for Him as the congregation prospered and grew. Following the Great Awakening the congregation became associated with the Stone -Campbell movement and became a Christian Church.

Two hundred and fifty years later we are celebrating the birth of this simple church, Wheat Swamp, founded by a group of people who simply wanted a place to worship God. The building of this church has a great legacy. It was used during the Civil War by Union troops as housing. The first meeting of the state women's organization was held here. The greatest legacy that congregation has is the people who make up the body of believers today. Church is first and foremost about people. People are what make up a faith community and that is what we celebrate now. Our challenge is to see that we leave a faith community to the coming generations and not just a history. For in so doing we will leave them the presence of God. Our forefathers did a great job of this. We are the proof.

A Brief Look at Our Wheat Swamp Experience

Bernie Meece, North Carolina Regional Minister, presented our name to the Pulpit Committee in late 1981. John and Ella Latham visited us in Charleston, S. C. to see if we would be interested in coming to this Pastorate. The way John described it, it was the best place in the world to be! Later we were invited for a December 1981 visit, and we received the call to the church in late December. We came in late February, 1982—Jim, Mary and Michael (who was in the fifth grade). Our son, Thomas, had died in Charleston in September 1981.

A group of church men came to Charleston to move us to our new parsonage. WOW! What a move. Our daughter, Connie, and her husband Steve, sons Rory and Zachary; our son, Jim, Jr., his wife Brenda and boys Ernie and Jimmie III were living in Winston-Salem at the time. Our daughter, Mary Christine and her husband Terry were living in Maryland – so we would be nearer to all of them. Soon after our arrival we felt we were home. That feeling has never faded. The welcome was just great!

Some major events for our family: Jim Jr. and his family moved here to teach at North Lenoir High School. Grandchild, William Thomas, was born here. Jim's mom came to live with us until her death. The congregation welcomed her and showed her their great love.

The great Tornado brought heavy damage and suffering to our area and to many church families. Malcolm Hill came to the church office early the next morning and said, "We got to do something". The fellowship building became the center for gathering supplies to assist in the recovery process. Money, food, clothing, furniture and supplies began to pour in to be distributed. The Pioneers of Winston-Salem, a volunteer group made up of employees where our daughter worked, brought a truckload of supplies. Help from a dozen states came. Money from the Week of Compassion. Wow! Our church's love went into high gear. What a blessing and joy to see the new building being used for the community.

Michael graduated high school, went off to college and after graduating, returned to teach at North Lenoir. We retired with a great Wheat Swamp Christian Church party and send off. Wow! But we

didn't go far. Mary's mom came to live with us and again our church family's love surrounded us.

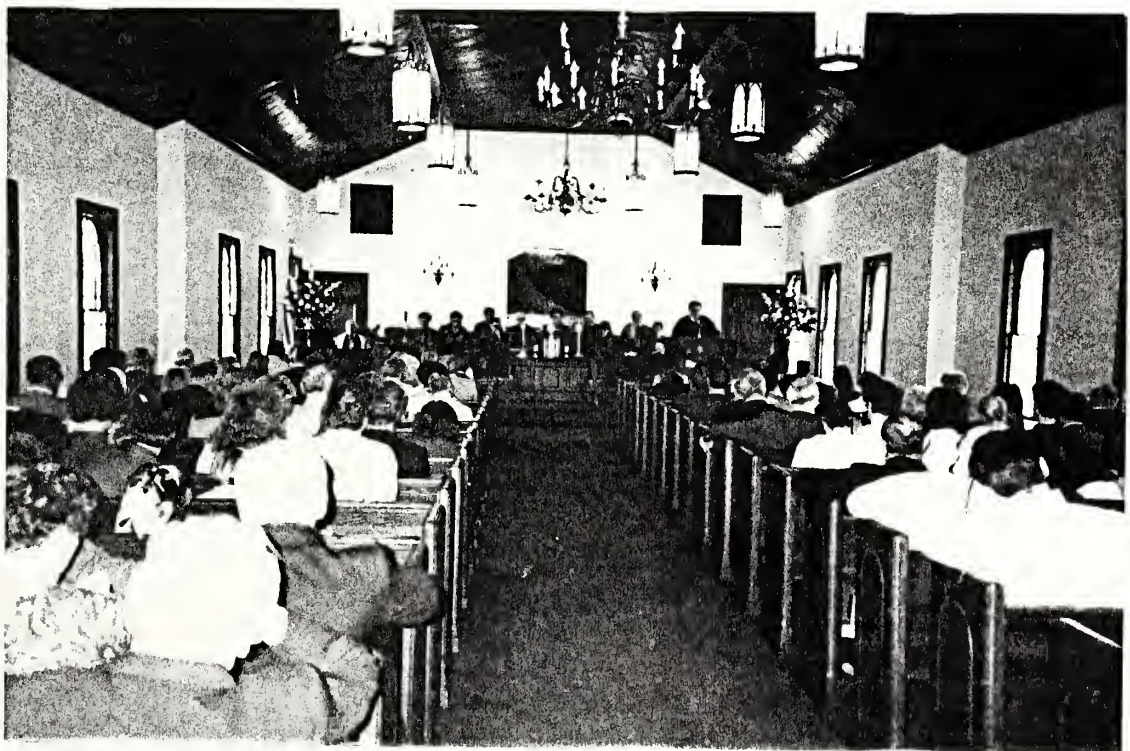
Jim was called to be Interim Minister at Wheat Swamp. Michael and Sandy were married during that interim. Wow!

Great sadness overwhelmed us at the tragic accident that took the life of our grandson Ernie while he was serving as Deputy Sheriff in Greene County. Once again the love of our church surrounded us and great comfort came from Leslie Wilkins, our Interim Minister.

Our first granddaughter Anna Marie was born – and the great love of our church surrounds our family. Wow! So much love, so much help!

It continues to be a joy and honor to be a part of our church family during our retirement. We pray that God's blessing will continue to be with our church, our community, our friends and extended family.

Mary and Jim Hull



James M. Hull's Retirement Celebration
Palm Sunday, 1991

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

It has been said that the longest journey begins with the first step. Such a journey began for the Wilkins family thirty-six years ago when we began our ministry with Wheat Swamp Christian Church.

We had completed a five year pastorate in West Point, Mississippi. After completing graduate school studies at Texas Christian University in June of 1961 and earning a Master of Divinity Degree, we accepted a call to Pastor the First Christian Church there.

Coming to Wheat Swamp Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Route 1, Lagrange, North Carolina meant coming home. I was raised in Wilson most of my life. We arrived in the community on August 29, 1966.

From the very beginning there was a special closeness between the Church and the Wilkins Family. Betty is a native of Bonneau, South Carolina. We were both students at Atlantic Christian College. He was majoring in Religion and she in secondary education.

Three children came with the pastoral package: Walter age 7, Scott age 4, and Will age 10 months. This was the beginning of what was to be a seven and one half year ministry. A closeness and an openness developed. We immediately had a feeling of "coming home."

Thus began a bond of love and mutual respect that continues today. We were placed by God in a Family of Faith who surrounded us with care, respect and a closeness that even when called to distant pastorates this love went with us.

Our active ministry closed on May 31, 1998. We were serving Armenia Christian Church on the other side of Kinston. We have served four churches since leaving Wheat Swamp. No matter where we went, even seventeen hundred miles away in Laredo, Texas, Wheat Swamp was still deep in our heart.

Preacher Wilkins and family had returned home. We purchased a home about one mile from Wheat Swamp Church. Our neighbors are those with whom we had shared good times and sad times. So, we have come full circle. We are home again, this time to stay.

During our 36 years of knowing and loving this family of faith we have witnessed its growth into a strong, spiritually mature congregation. Growing through sadness, heartache, spiritual stress, our Church is ready to face the future and forge ahead in service to God with Christ, our saviour, leading. We are ready to face the challenges of the future, knowing that "we walk by faith and not by sight".

In this Journey of Faith, the Wilkins Family pledges that **"NO MATTER WHAT COURSE OTHERS MAY TAKE, AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD (JOSHUA 24:15).**

Preacher Wilkins and Betty

HOMECOMING 2002

Congratulations to all of you that are present members of the Congregation of Wheat Swamp Christian Church. This is truly a milestone in the history of any church. I am exceedingly happy to have been a member from 1943-1955. I feel love and compassion each time I return for a visit. I remember attending the dedication of the renovations. When I look up and see the chandeliers, I think of the song "The Presence of the Lord Is In This Place." I appreciate my brother, Frank Dail, for organizing his siblings, thus making these lights a reality.

I remember Sunday School. Aunt Rachel (Rachel Dail Herring). was our teacher. She had us read verses from the Bible aloud. Reading aloud from the Bible is not a favorite activity to me. We answered the roll call with a Bible verse we had memorized.

I especially remember the ladies of the church. I recently read some minutes from the Mina Dail Circle written in the early '70's. Their study guide was the "World Call Publication." One of these studies concerned the dependence of the United States on oil from Iran and Iraq. Can you believe this? I would say that they were ahead of the time. Not only do I remember the ladies from this circle, but also the ones that sang in the choir for years. I would like to name them all, but I may leave out some one. Then the ones that always gave a helping hand in preparing food for a bereaved family and/or sickness in the family.

A church with two published authors—Life's Experiences, by Ethel Emerson Rouse and The History of Wheat Swamp Christian Church, by Naomi Dail Holder. Aunt Sissie, Kathleen Dail, reading the manuscript and helping Aunt Naomi with grammar punctuation etc I sure could use her help now. Both books are inspirational reading.

I remember revival, the last week in September. The singing of "Into My Heart" as the benediction. I find myself singing this song today. Of course, Homecoming followed the revival. Folks seemed to come from every where for the food and fellowship. The dinner was outside. The serving table was constructed with 4x4 post as the legs with chicken wire stretched across. I can imagine the sweat on the men as they dug holes with the old fashion post hole diggers. When a dish was placed on the wire, you had to be careful. The wire would give. But I never remember any food falling. Looking back, this table was a great invention. I wonder, was this a John Dail creation? On this occasion, again the ladies "showed-off" their culinary skills. What would Homecoming be at Wheat Swamp without all the fresh vegetables, especially the collards cooked in country ham. Southen Living Magazine would be proud to show a picture of the desserts. Each cake, pie, cobbler, etc so beautiful and delicious.

I look forward to Harvest Day. Hope there will be pepper relish for sell.

I love you all.

Faye Dail Ross

The Joy Club (Senior Citizens Club) of Wheat Swamp Christian Church was organized on January 9, 1986 at the Church Fellowship Building with the following officers being elected:

President: Kathleen Dail
Vice-President: LaVera Jones
Secretary: Louise Boone
Treasurer: Brownie Sugg

Malcolm Hill, a church member, approached several of our ladies and suggested that we organize a Senior Citizens Club. His suggestion was received by the ladies with excitement and the club was organized with thirty-three charter members. The club members meet regularly and each year quilts and contributes all money from quilt sale to the church. Approximately \$12,000.00 has been made from their quilt sales.

Members enjoy the fellowship of the meetings as well as their "quilting parties". Not all time is spent in quilting as the group include visiting of the sick and shut-ins of the church and community as part of their ministry.

Mrs. Brownie Sugg



Remember 376

I remember Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. Cousins, Mrs. Bright, and most of all my mother Jerry Rouse spending countless hours helping me and many other boys at the church do their best. We made all kinds of things, like a tin can match holder (it still hangs in the kitchen cabinet over the washing machine), a chip off the old block picture holder (for Father's Day), a pencil and supplies box (made out of an old shoe box covered with blue and gold paper), a recipe card holder (for Mother's Day), and many other crafts that have slipped my mind over the years . I guess we learned to recycle before it was the thing to do , because these sweet ladies saved and borrowed useless pieces of things for us boys to turn into wonderful treasures and gifts . I remember paying our dues (.25 cent each meeting I think) and drinking kool-aid and eating cookies at every meeting . I remember special outings, like at Christmas taking fruit and candy to shut-in , like visiting the Kinston firehouse (I'll never forget sliding down that brass pole) , and a weenie roast at the creek . Though some of the ladies are gone these memories are still with lots of men that as cub scout at Wheat Swamp learned to DO YOUR BEST, for that we thank you all .

I remember the steps we took, moving from cubs to webelos and finally on to boy scouts . The metamorphosis of change from a little boy to a young man is noticed at first in the changing of colors from royal blue to khaki green (boy scout green is still a color I love to wear). The next step was to leave behind the den mothers and move on to the care of the scout master (no more hugs and kisses at scout meetings). I remember Mr. Dail , Mr. Barrow , and most of all Mr. Latham (a man who feared nothing). I remember the old scout huts on Mr. John Dails farm, the smell of the large army surplus canvas tent, the hard to cook on stoves, clearing the camp site to put up the tent, raising the big tent (you felt like you were in the circus) , latrine duty, the knot tying log relay (always a blue ribbon) , the compass event (if getting out of the woods ment reading a compass correctly, many of us would still be in the woods at camp Bonner), camp inspections , jamboree , Jo Jo Barrow getting stuck in his army surplus mummy sleeping bag (I still get tickled just thinking about it) , Holly Shelter hike-in , summer camp , merit badges , over night canoe trips , and rain. Rain ment learning to play pennie ennie poker on the scout bus (we did learn some bad

things too). I have lots of memories about that old scout bus. The troop already had the bus when the boys my age got to be boy scouts. But I bet no other group rode on that bus as much as we did ! I remember Mr. John Latham (the man that feared nothing) taking us for two summers in a row on week long trips. The first trip was to Canada (Niagra) , for many of us it was the only time we've ever been out of the United States . I remember how the back of the seats came out and plywood was layed on the backrest and cushions to make bunk beds . Every day we made and ate bologna and cheese on white bread with mustard and mayonnaise , accompanied with potato chips and kool-aid (sure drank a lot of kool-aid in my scouting days). We saw the battlefields at Gettysburg , the Hersey chocolate factory (I still get the shakes from all that free chocolate we ate) and we spent a lot of time on the Blue Ridge . At some point Mr. Latham stopped the bus on a high mountain and told us " boys take a good look , because this may be as close to Heaven as some of you get " (must have been just after the stop at Hersey and all that chocolate). The next year we went to Cape Canaveral . I remember the heat , mosquitoes , glass bottom boats , the fort at St. Augustine , the launch pad , the heat , bologna and cheese on white bread with mustard and mayonnaise (I don't eat much bologna now days) , beautiful beaches , girls in bikinies , and the heat (sure was hot in Florida) .

The memories and lessons of my scouting days have influenced me and my life in many ways . The leaders and Wheat Swamp Christian Church have touched many young men and boys through scouting . I'll always be a member of troop 376 , no matter how old I get and I hope I never forget , A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY , LOYAL , HELPFUL , FRIENDLY , COURTEOUS , KIND , OBEDIENT , CHEERFUL , THRIFTY , BRAVE , CLEAN , AND REVERENT . Thank you again for all the memories !!!

Jeffrey Rouse (Hawk Patrol)

Miller Benjamin Creech transferred a deed to the land on which Wheat Swamp Christian Church now stands on May 23, 1858. The deed was recorded on December 16, 1907. At this time the newly renovated building was dedicated. It is unique that he was present at the time of that dedication. Then fifty years later on June 7, 1908, at the dedication of the again renovated building, as it held its first meeting, that the Resolution of Respect was submitted.

The above article was located in the Creech Family
Album featuring John Miller Creech and his descendants.
Dated 1994

“Salt and Pepper” Outing

One sunny Saturday when I was about four years old, my church group and I all piled on the bus to go to the Cliffs of the Neuse. All the little kids and their parents were going. We planned to leave early that morning, have a picnic lunch, and spend all afternoon swimming and hiking. Everyone was very excited about the trip.

When we got there, we went on a nature hike and about eleven o'clock we ate lunch. Everyone had to wait thirty minutes to an hour after eating to avoid cramps.

About one o'clock in the afternoon, all the little children and their parents put on their bathing suits and jumped into the water. Everyone was having a nice time wading and swimming.

One of my friends turned to me and said, “Does this water have salt in it?”

And I said, “No, it doesn't have pepper in it either.”

The next Sunday, the preacher told the whole congregation in church what I had said. When I was old enough to understand what I had done, I was very embarrassed.

Tonya Sutton

Note: Tonya Sutton Taylor, formerly Tonya Sutton, is the daughter of Lynn and Ray Sutton. Tonya composed the above piece while attending North Lenior High School. The composition was published in Unframed Thoughts in 1992. Rev. William Roberts was the minister of Wheat Swamp Christian Church at that time.

The following article was taken from "History of Greene County, North Carolina" page 681 by James M. Creech. Special thanks to Linda Casey (Daughter of James M. Creech) for permission to use this article.

A special Thank You to William Jones (Son of Ray W. Jones) for also giving permission to use article.

Reminiscences

To All Whom It May Concern:

John F. Jones was a minister and a farmer. He preached at Wheat Swamp Church about 20 years and it has been reported that all he ever received during the time that he preached at this church was one yard of white cloth and five dollars in cash.

He was pastor of Wheat Swamp Church when he died. He was killed by a falling tree within 500 yards of the bridge that crosses Stanly branch which is in the edge of Greene County about 1 ½ miles from the old Sugg Mill, now known as Grays Mill, and was buried in the family grave yard back of his home, which is on the northside of the Hookerton and Institute road.

He was one of the first ruling elders of the church at Hookerton, N.C. which was est. March 20, 1830.

Sincerely,

Ray W. Jones

Note: Ray W. Jones was the father of William A. Jones,
Chairperson of the Greene County Commissioners (1978)

My first memories of Wheat Swamp Christian Church

Moving from my home church, Gordon Street to Wheat Swamp Christian Church was a big step for me. Everyone was a stranger as well as some of the “customs” I found at Wheat Swamp. One particular custom I observed was that the men remained outside the building until the music started, signaling the start of services. When they entered the sanctuary, the men would sit on the left side of the sanctuary and the women and children would sit on the right. This was all new to me so I sat with Lovit instead of the other ladies.

Edna White

A Special Church, A Special Woman

After many years of not attending church regularly, I had reached a point in my life that I knew something was missing. I had always felt a bond with Wheat Swamp Christian Church since my grandparents, Lovit and Edna White, and mother, Linda White Byrd were members of the Church. I started attending church at Wheat Swamp but I still was not ready to publicly accept Christ. I had attended a few of Mrs. Irene Hill's Sunday School classes and I knew she was a "Special" lady. Then I helped with the Harvest Festival and Mrs. Irene took me under her wing at the "BBQ Chicken Table". It was at that Harvest Festival that I really felt the fellowship of Christian believers and I knew I wanted to be a part. I also saw a christian woman that I wanted to be like. One that had the respect of fellow church members and in turn, returned that respect. I regret that I never told Ms. Irene personally how much she affected my spiritual walk but somehow – I think she knows.

A special memory from
Lynn Whaley

A Mama's Day at Wheat Swamp Christian Church

When my daughter, Lindsay, was a baby, I was keeping the church nursery one Sunday. There were three other children in the nursery that day and they were keeping me busy. Lindsay had started talking but up to that day she was not saying "Mama". She called me "DaDa" but with a different pronunciation than her Daddy's "DaDa". As I said, the children had me busy and Lindsay had tried several times to get my attending by calling out "DaDa". Finally, and to my great surprise and joy, she blurted out "Mama.." What a wonderful day at church it was.

Lynn Whaley

Good times I remember:

I remember the good times working with Mrs. Cornelia at Harvest Festival. When I first started helping, the harvest festival was held in the educational rooms, with each department being located in a different room. Mrs. Cornelia and I (the sewing room) were located in approximately what is now the choir room. We could not “socialize” as we do now, as we were confined to that one room all day.

I remember the good times with the youth of the Church including: working with the youth choir, especially the night we went over to Rainbow to sing at their revival and the trick Bobby and the boys in his car pulled on me and the girls in my car. Enjoyed taking the youth to the Morehead Planetarium to see the Easter story. Enjoyed meeting each Sunday afternoon at the high school to play ball (this was before we had a fellowship building with our own ball field).

I remember when we did not have a paid church secretary and the ministers office was located where the office for the secretary is currently located. Leslie Wilkins would gather the information for our newsletter, leave it inside our back door, I would type the stencil that night and slide it under his door the next morning for him to run off and mail. We did not have a copier, just an old stencil machine that was always leaking ink.

I also remember my worse moment at Wheat Swamp—

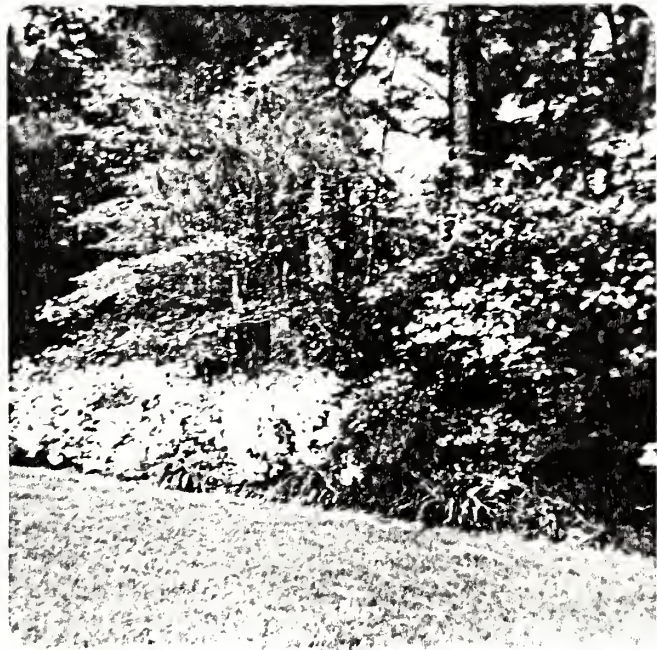
It was the custom in the 1960's for the youth groups to meet each Sunday night and attendance was usually very high. It was also customary to have some light refreshments following our study time. On this particular cool winter night, we had fresh popped pop corn and soft drinks. Everyone ate bowls of corn, had several cups of drink and afterwards when we were enjoying some game one child came running up and blurted out “I forgot to tell you that I am allergic to pop corn”. Well I almost had a heart attack imaging the results of serving pop corn to a child with a pop corn allergy.

I rushed down the hall to where the parents were having their Bible study, interrupted the class, apologizing for what I had done. The child's father responded rather quickly. “ This is the first I have heard of his allergy to pop corn, I just don't know what he is talking about”. Needless to say, It was a long time before we had pop corn again.

Jean Gardner

KATHLEEN'S FLOWER GARDEN

Now we can think of one day well spent,
One of the most beautiful days of spring,
When our mission group was together
At the home of a member friend.
We spent a full day in God's open,
His beautiful day of spring.
And enjoyed our food together
While that old mocking bird did sing,
We just sat and relaxed together
On the patio of this friend,
Then a stroll through her flower garden
Which I thought would never end—
Flowers, flowers everywhere.
Then back to the house we wandered
To take a little rest,
And to ponder over God's gift of love
And of the many ways we're blessed.
So much God made beauty.
This we all do know.
But one thing I can't understand
Is why He loves us so.
We will hardly forget this lovely day,
But surely if we do,
We will not forget the giver
For He was with us too.



Written by Ethel Emerson Rouse

Submitted by
Faye Dail Ross

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD—A CHALLENGE

**Who will hold this flame high
As we journey toward the sky?
It is a challenge for us all,
In Christian unity lest we fall,**

**I know that in this busy journey of life,
There is so much prejudices, hatred, and strife;
We want to turn back and hide our faces,
When we see the ingratitude of the races.**

**“I can’t do much,” did I hear you say?
“I’m so little on this great highway.”
But the flame held high by many hands
Will be seen by our brothers in other lands.**

**Whenever there is discord, struggle, and strife,
Are you willing to share a part of your life
In helping others to be nearer to God
By the Christian examples on the path you’re trod?**

**By—Kathleen Dail
Published in “Miss Ethel’s” book of poems**

Submitted by
Faye Dail Ross

***'THE CHURCH STEPS AT WHEAT SWAMP;
FOND MEMORIES TO REMEMBER***

**These church steps were very dear to me
Over which I've been in and out since infancy
Seeking the Lord where He may be found
These steps led into a sacred house built upon solid ground.
Where I met my dear friends that through the years with cords
Of love I'm bound.**

**Surely, my love for my good friends can never sever;
For they are very dear to me and will be mine forever.
But those dear steps so dear to me
Are no more the steps they used to be;
For those steps now must go
My footsteps too are getting slow (now 82 years of age)
It was over those steps that I was led to the light
Of my dear Savior's love;
Now He is preparing for me a resting place in His Heaven above.
I am sure we will all remember
That on those steps was a hand shake dear
Each Sunday morning of every month in the year.**

By Ethel E. Rouse (1976)

Submitted by
Faye Dail Ross

THANK YOU

Several people within our history deserve a special Thank You and we take this opportunity to do so....

Barfield, Creech and Hill families - for donation of land for church buildings.

All Members – who donated time to build our Fellowship Hall.

George Rouse – for his dedication and inspiration which was felt by all that he touched.

John D. Hill – for building the first house of worship at our current location.

Ruby Gray – for working with the youth and serving as Historian.

Albert Tyson – for all he did for the church, especially the twenty years he served as Treasurer.

Earl Barfield – for his years of service as Custodian and Treasurer.

John Latham – for the years he served as scout master and church Treasurer.

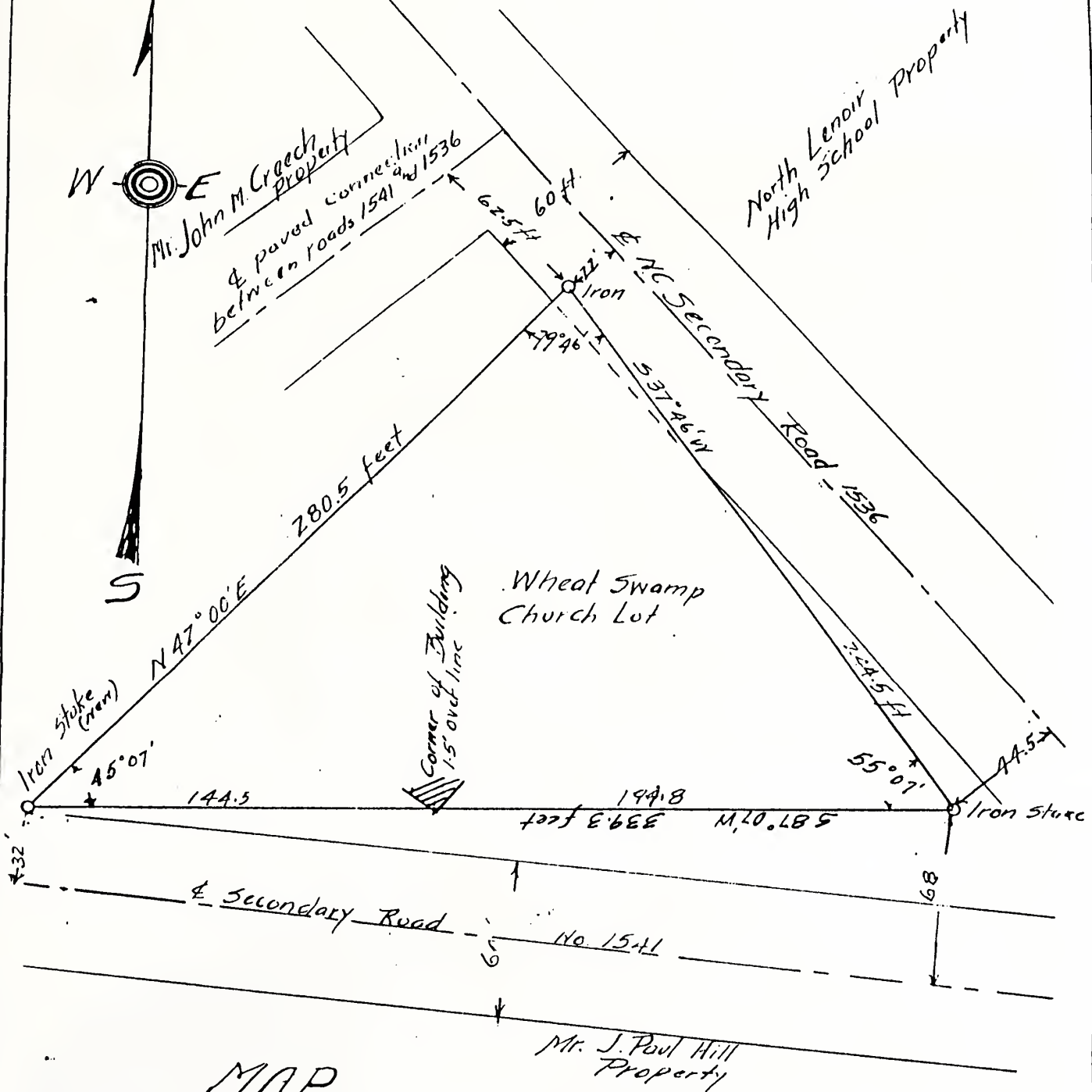
Bobby Gardner – for the twelve years he served as church Treasurer.

Naomi Holder – for serving as Historian and tracking of church history.

Jean Gardner – for serving as Board Secretary for sixteen years.

Paul Hill – for all the years he gave of his time to serve as church Treasurer and church Clerk.

Pictorial Memories



MAP

Showing Wheat Swamp Church Lot

Surveyed from a description contained in a paper represented by Mr. J. Paul Hill as being a copy of the original deed given the Church by Miller Creech in 1857

Adjoining landowners are Mr. John M. Creech, Mr. J. Paul Hill, and Lenoir County Board of Education

Bearings new and magnetic.

Scale 1 inch = 40 feet

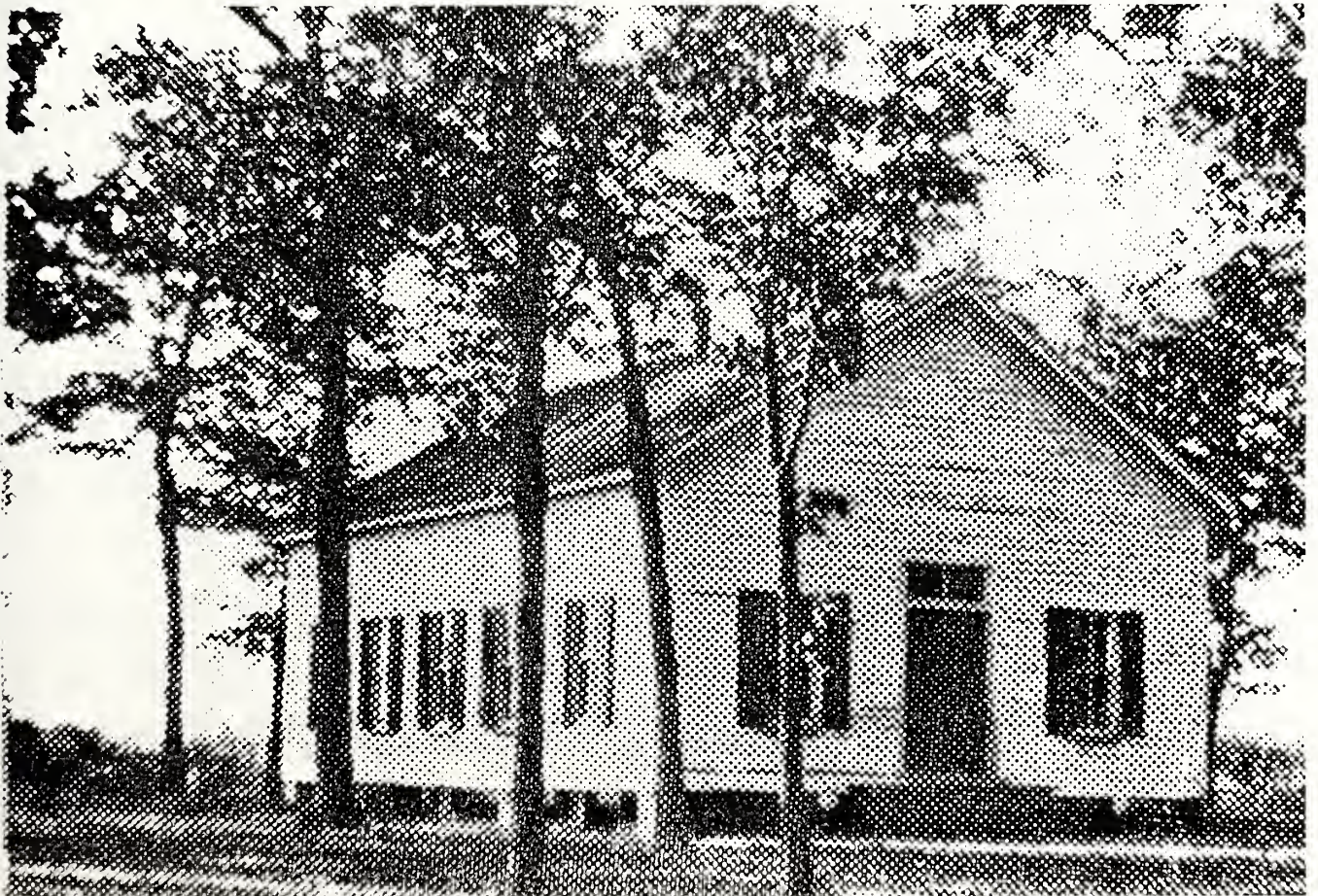
August 13, 1965 J.I. Phillips C.E. 105, Winston N.C.

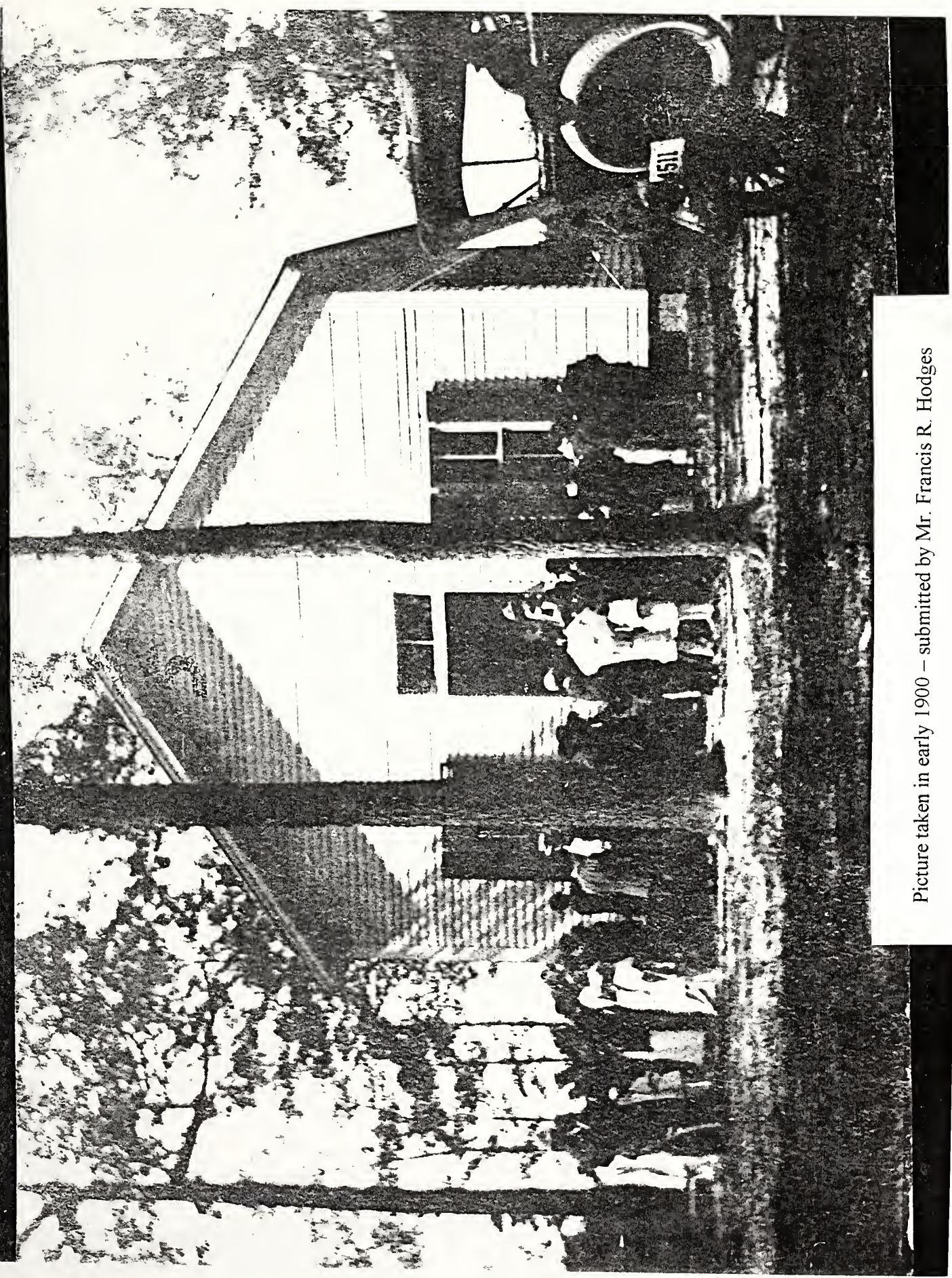


John D. Hill February 17, 1829 / November 1, 1881

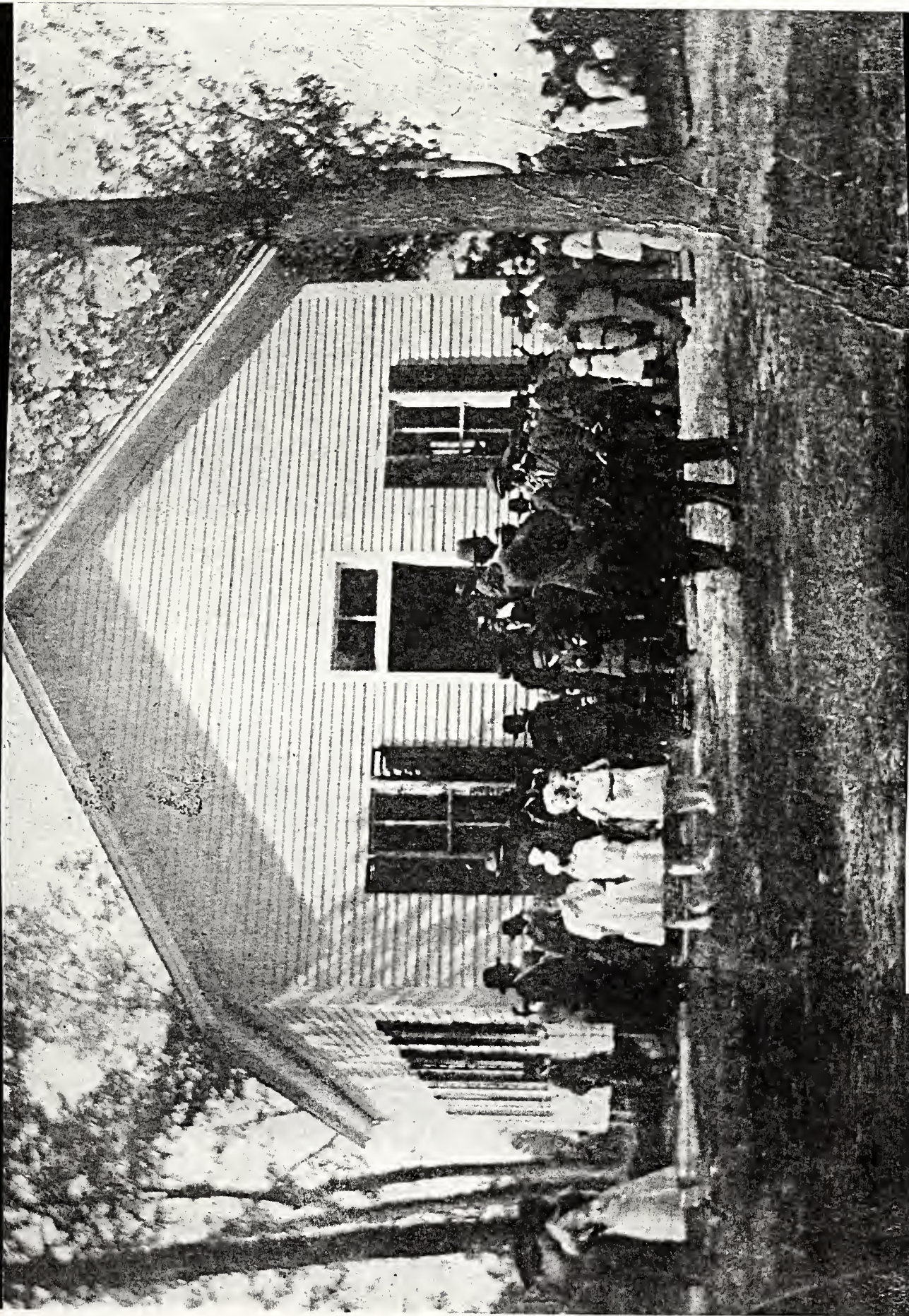
First Building on Current Site

John D. Hill was born on February 17, 1829 and died on November 1, 1881. He was a member of the congregation of Wheat Swamp Church and served many years as an Elder. He contracted to build a church (pictured below) for \$500.00 materials and labor. "All material was to be heart, and to be hand dressed at the site. All sap was to be thrown aside and returned to the saw mill for replacement". The land for the building was deeded and given by Mr. Miller B. Creech. It is stated that Mr. Hill was only 29 years old when the building was completed and dedicated on Sunday, May 23, 1858. The original tools used by Mr. Hill to build the church have been donated to Wheat Swamp Christian Church by his great grandson, Don Johnson.

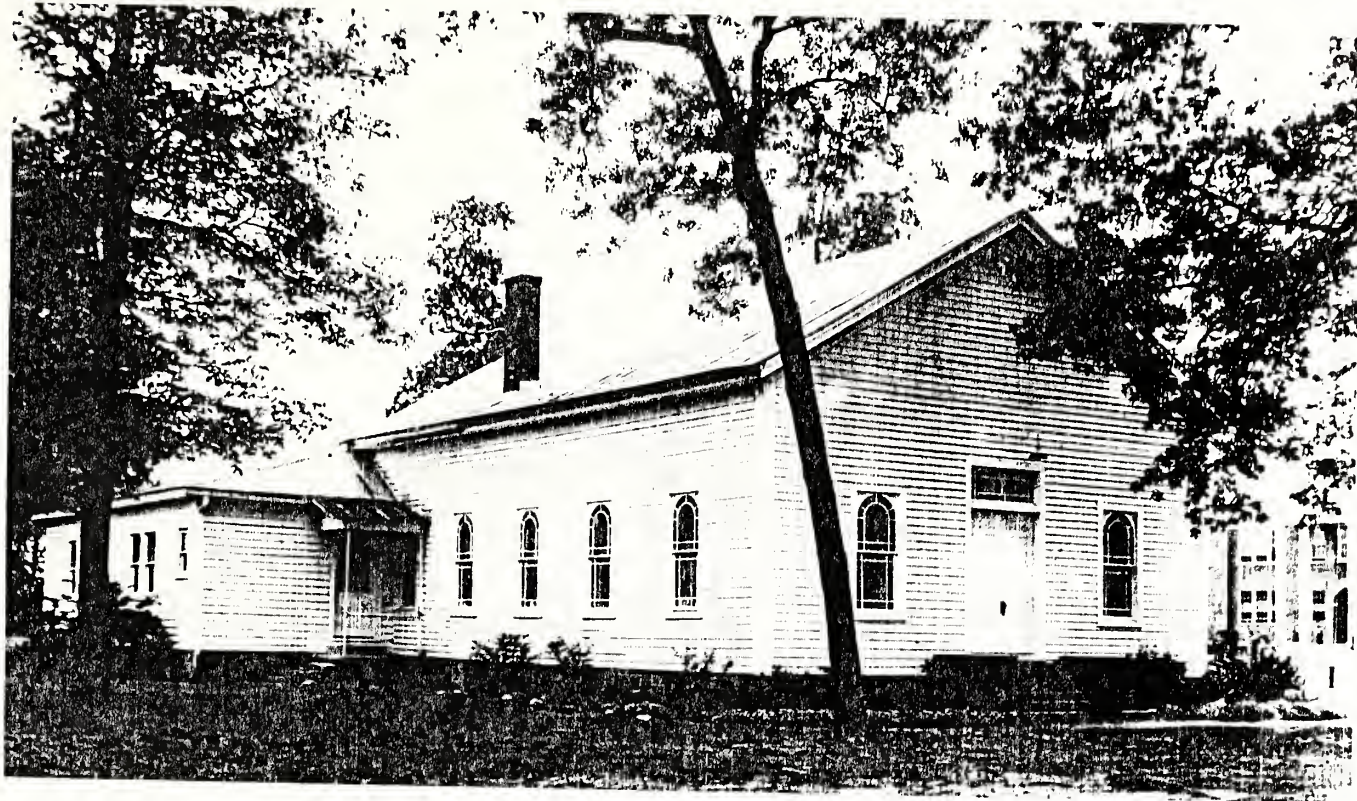




Picture taken in early 1900 – submitted by Mr. Francis R. Hodges



Picture taken in early 1900 – submitted by Mr. Francis R. Hodges



Wheat Swamp Christian Church, Wheat Swamp, 1858. This 1969 documentary photograph shows the original church building, although the stained glass windows and other additions have obscured its form (North Carolina Division of Archives and History)



Date of this photo is unknown; however the steeple was not added until 1976; therefore this was between 1960 (after educational building was completed) and 1976 (when steeple was added).



Wheat Swamp Christian Church 2002



Fellowship Building 2002



Prior to 1947 baptisms were held at Grays Mill



Congregation watching baptism at Grays Mill



1962 Dinner on the Grounds

OCT • 70

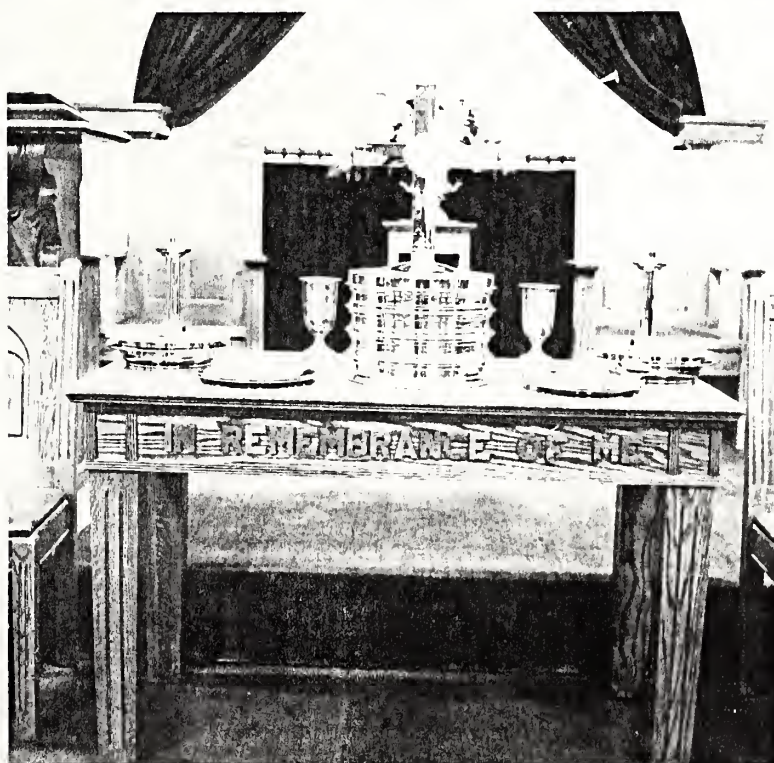


October 1970

Interior of Sanctuary in 1969, before being remodeled and entry reversed.



1969



1969



Indianapolis, December 28, 1960 - Representatives of the Wheat Swamp Christian Church, LaGrange, N. C. are pictured as they conferred recently with the Board of Church Extension in Indianapolis, Indiana, regarding their church expansion program. The Church is planning the construction of an educational unit to cost approximately \$66,600.00. A portion of the financial cost of the program is being underwritten through cash gifts, pledges and the use of the Church Extension's loan plan.

Left to right are: Elmer Dail, Vice Chairman of the Building Committee; James Mahoney, Minister; Albert F. Tyson, Chairman of the Board, John Latham, Church Treasurer; and Harold R. Watkins, General Representative for the Board of Church Extension.



Golden Age Members of Wheat Swamp Christian Church are shown breaking ground for the new 15 room educational addition. Left to right: Bernice Barfield Bessie Hardy, Roberta Aldridge, George Rouse, Will Emerson, George Emerson, Hattie Holland, Ethel Rouse, Naomi Holder, Langhorn Hardy and Leon Sutton.



DEDICATION OF EDUCATIONAL WING 1961

Left to right: Bonnie Meece, State CVF Director; Ross Allen, State Secretary; Harold Kennedy, Building Chairman; Doug Bell, Gordon St. Church Minister; C. W. Dawson, Bldg. Contractor; James Mahoney, Minister; Wilbur Wallace, State CNF Director; Vere Rogers, AC College Professor and Interim Minister of this congregation periodically.



John Latham, Rev. James Hull, Polly Rouse, Malcolm Hill
William Jones, Frank Brinson, Lemuel Hardy



Mrs. Ruby Gray, William Jones, Diane Croom

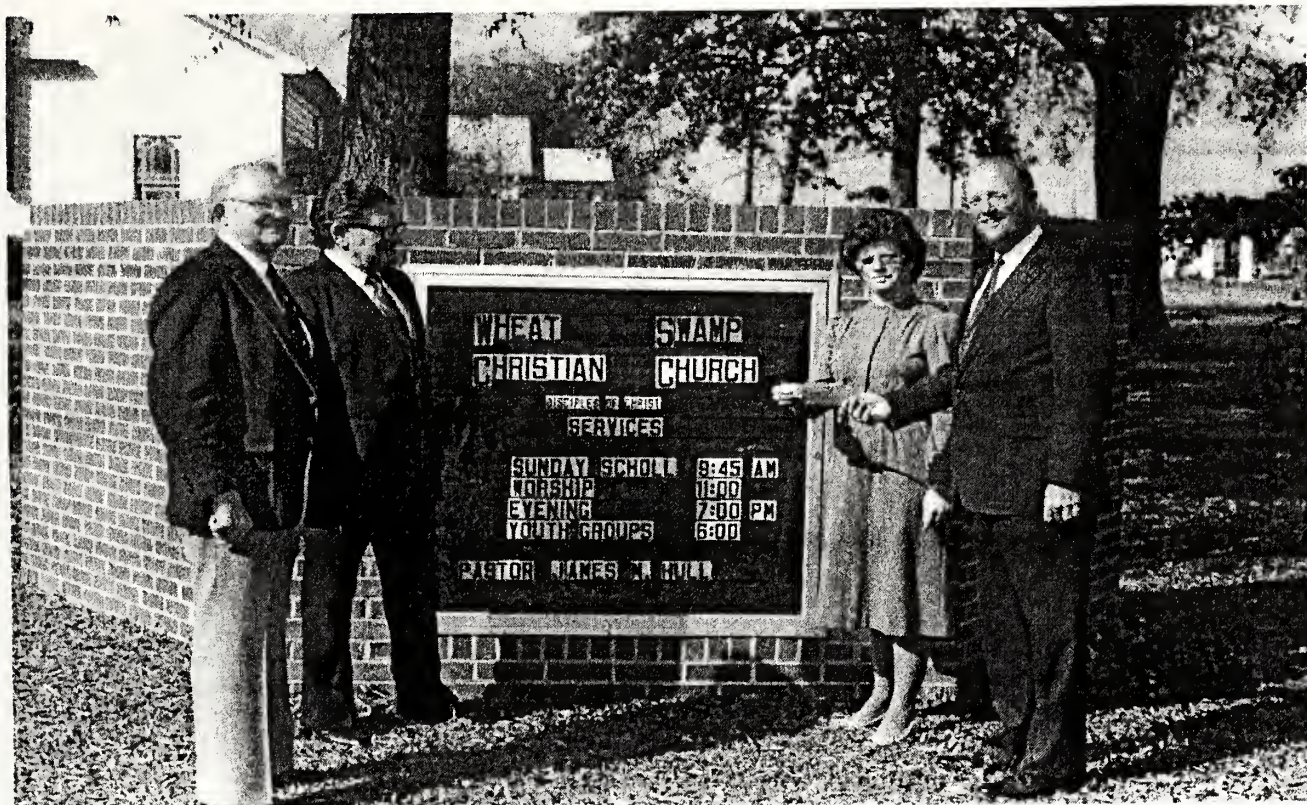
Our yearly Harvest Festival has grown from being viewed as just days of hard work into a time of Christian Fellowship as our congregation works together for special projects of the Church. Our yearly Pepper Relish days, which precede the fall Harvest Festival, yield hundreds of jars of relish which are enjoyed by friends across the state.



Harvest Festival 1980 - Mrs. Cornelia Sutton



Harvest Festival 1980 - cooking Hushpuppies
Randy Jackson & Walter Stroud



Wheat Swamp Christian Church Endowed Scholarship

WILSON — The Wheat Swamp Christian Church of La Grange, has established an endowed scholarship at Atlantic Christian College through a gift of \$10,000 to the institution's endowment fund. Earnings from the gift will provide an annual scholarship grant to be known as the "Wheat Swamp Christian Church Endowed Scholarship."

In awarding the scholarship, preference will be given to a qualified student who is a member of Wheat Swamp Christian Church and is attending or plans to attend Atlantic Christian College. Second preference will be given to a deserving student who is a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Lenoir or Green County.

The Wheat Swamp Christian Church Endowed Scholarship will be awarded initially for the fall semester of the 1988 academic year.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA CHARTER

Granted to the
WHEAT SWAMP CHRISTIAN CHURCH

upon application through authorized representatives to carry on the Scouting program for
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT • CITIZENSHIP TRAINING • MENTAL AND PHYSICAL
FITNESS subject to the provisions of the Charter and Bylaws and rules and regulations
of the Boy Scouts of America for the period ending

MARCH 31 1976

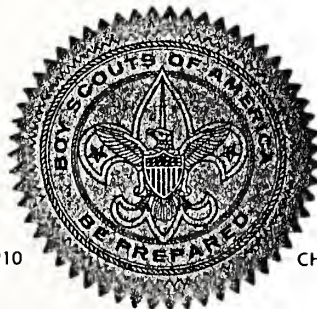


TROOP 376

LAGRANGE NC

In testimony whereof the Boy Scouts of America has caused this charter to be issued and its
corporate seal to be affixed.

426-3

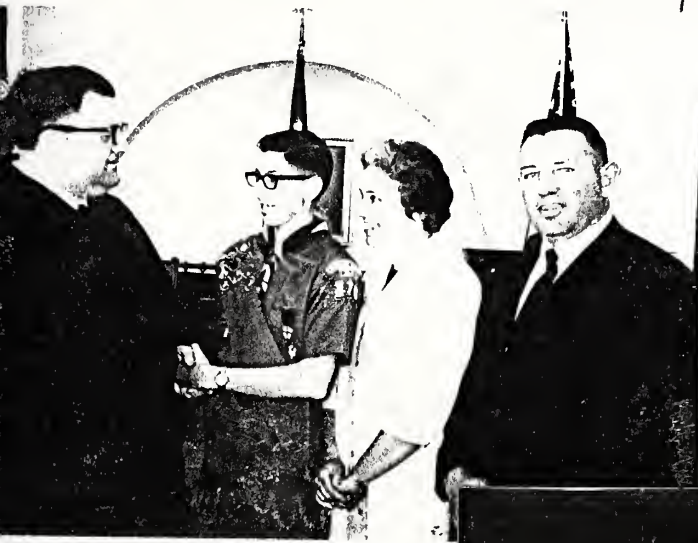


Alvin Barber
CHIEF SCOUT EXECUTIVE

INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 8, 1910

CHARTERED BY CONGRESS JUNE 15, 1916

Our Scouting program was very important to so many young men.
Several scouts received their Eagle Badge in ceremonies at Wheat
Swamp Church.



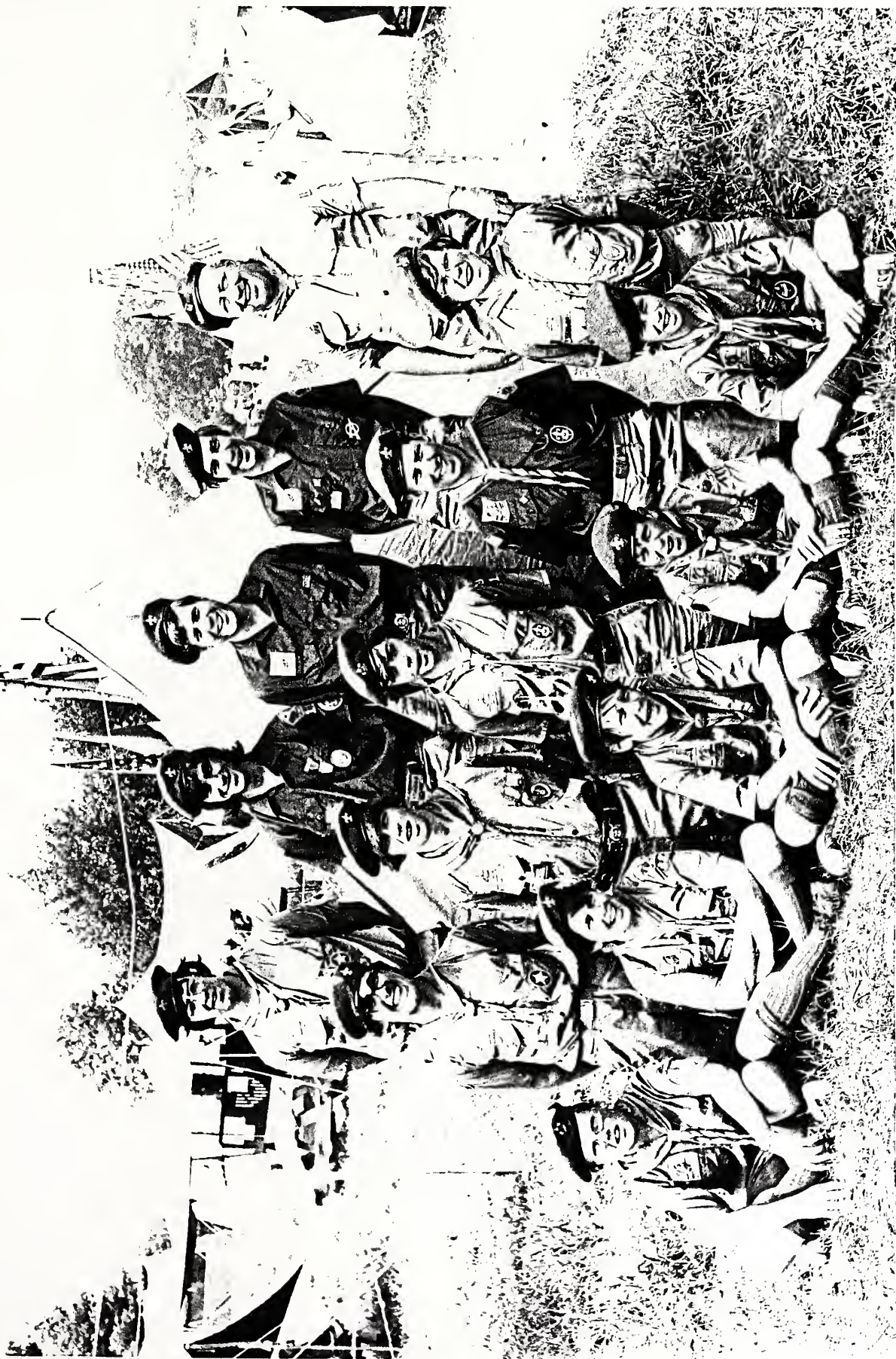
John Latham with Parents, John and Ella Latham
1971



Stephen Mark Sutton with mother, Ms. Phillip Sutton
1983



Bennie Hardy with Parents, Ann and William Hardy



1973 National Scout Jamboree held in Philadelphia, Pa. Wheat Swamp Troop was represented
by David Latham.

Out of the attic



The above photo was made on Sept. 7, 1947 following the ordination of the Rev. James Hull to the Christian Ministry. Rev. Hull retired from full-time ministry at Wheat Swamp Christian Church in Lenoir County in 1991. He and his wife live in LaGrange. To submit old photographs for publication, mail them to "Out of the Attic," The Free Press, P.O. Box 129, Kinston, N.C. 28502 or drop them by the office at 2103 N. Queen St. between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. Include written information about the photograph and a daytime telephone number.

Youth Sunday School Classes

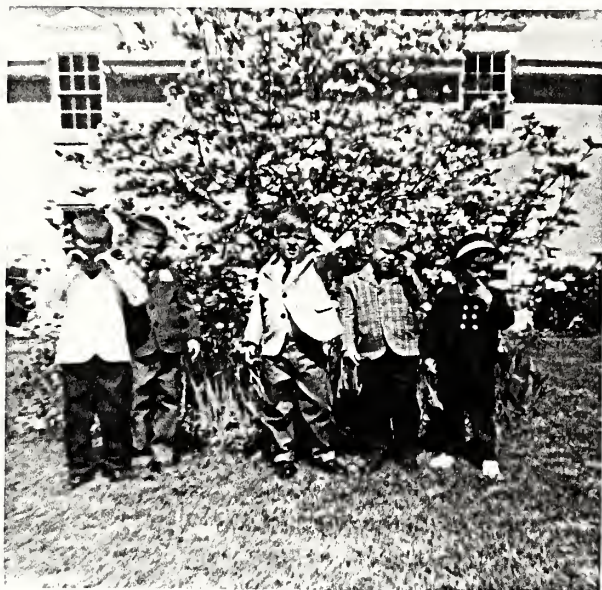
Several of these young people are now holding offices of leadership within the church



1968 Sunday School Class

Left to Right:

Wanda Jo Creech, Belva Creech, Allyson Barrow, Tammy Everett, Pat Everett, Lynwood E. Everett, Mark Wade



1968 Sunday School Class

Left to Right:

Felix Croom, III, George Smith, III, Willie Wilkins, Lynwood E. Everett, Mark Wade



1969 Sunday School Class

1st row: Andrea Vincent, Lee Moye
Angie Sugg, Lisa Poole

2nd row: Mark Wade,
Wanda Jo Creech



1970 Sunday School Class

1st row: Frankie Hill,

2nd row: Lee Moye, Ron Rogers,
DeAnna Emerson

3rd row: Angie Sugg, Jamie Howard,
Richard Howard, Andrea
Vincent, A. W. Waters

4th row: Dee Dee Phillippee, Lisa
Poole, Willie Wilkins
Claudia Smith,

5th row: Bennie Hardy, Stella
Shingleton, Mary Dail,
Jewel Wallace

6th row: Ann Hardy, Diane
Croom, Nicole Croom

WHEAT SWAMP SOFTBALL TEAMS 1978 – 1980

The Wheat Swamp softball teams received trophies for their participation in the Kinston Recreational Church leagues. During the years 1978 through 1980 both the men's and the ladies' teams were successful.

During the 1978 the ladies were co-champs of the church league and champions of the Caswell Tournament. In 1979 the ladies were third in the church league. The ladies team was both season runner-up and tournament runner-up in 1980.

In 1979 the men were co-runners up in the church league. In 1982 the men were tournament runner-up in church league B.

This information was garnered from trophies found in the storage room. Names of the players were not available.



Music has always been an important part of worship at Wheat Swamp Church. We thank all those who have shared their talent with us and the community.

NOV • 67



1967



1969



Choir, December 2001

Front Row: Mary Smith, Norma Smith

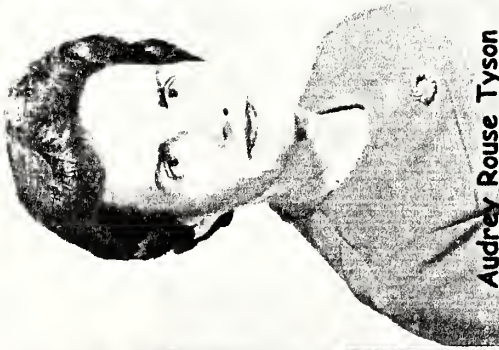
Second Row: Francille Luckett, Shirley Hoffman, Linda Byrd
Maxine Smith, Brenda Grant, Wesley Letchworth, Choir Director

Back Row: Vickie Letchworth, Ann Vincent, Diane Turner,
Ilene Jones, Morris Luckett, Harper Grant, Kirby Hardy,
William Hardy, Heilig Hoffman





Ruth Graham Rouse



Audrey Rouse Tyson



Naomi Dail Holder



Dorothy Sugg Byrd



Carol Alderidge Sutton



R. G.



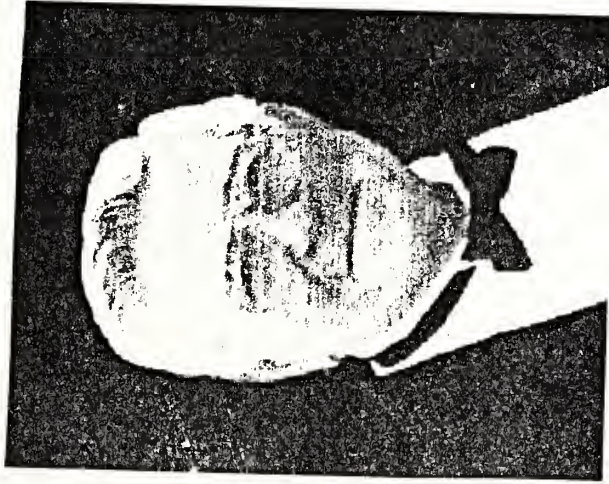
Wesley Letchworth

Organist and Pianist
1919-2002

Ruth G. Rouse, Audrey R. Tyson,
Naomi D. Holder, Dorothy S. Byrd
Carol A. Sutton, Curtis Brock,
Wesley Letchworth

Pianist/Organist

1919 AD - 2002 AD



Male Quartet 1956-1986

Left to Right: Elmer Dail, George Byrd, Edward Colie, Earl Barfield



Wheat Swamp Quartet
Lori Gray, Wesley Letchworth, William Hardy, Lisa Alphin

The ladies of Wheat Swamp Church have always stood tall in their faithfulness to the church and work diligently to insure a place of worship for themselves and their families. Throughout the history of the church our women have held various offices of the church ranging from Elder to State Board Representative for the Hookerton District. They have supported the Christian Women's Fellowship since its first meeting in 1876. Benefits from their fund raisers have been used for outreach programs and to provide many items for the church that are enjoyed by the entire congregation. Our ladies continue to serve the church and community in all capacities and are always ready to respond when a need arises.



From 1961-1966, four of our ladies served as Elderesses.
Front Row: Nannie Aldridge and Naomi Holder
Back Row: Ethel Rouse and Jerry Rouse



A Day At The Beach

Our C.W.F. Groups (Group 1 and 2) were invited each summer for a day at Topsail Beach by Mrs. Hattie Holland. The day was spent at her cottage and was a great day of fellowship.



Ruby Gray, Ilene Jones, Ruth Sugg and Laura Hill enjoying a week-end at the General Assembly held in Winston-Salem



C.W.F. Group # 1

First Row: Nannie J. Aldridge
 Second Row: Lillie Rouse, Mrs. B. L. Efrid, Rachel Herring
 Third Row: Mina Dail, Mary Etta Lang, Ruth Abbott, Cassie Simmons
 Fourth Row: Ethel Rouse, Annie Aldridge, Naomi Holder, Edna Daughety,
 Mary Ellen Murphrey, Ruth Rouse



December 19, 1978, Our first Chrismon Tree.
105 Chrismons



Chrismon Tree, December 2001

Current Items of Interest

CHURCH BOARD OFFICERS

7/1/02 - 6/30/03

Chairman of the Board Harper Grant
Vice- Chairman William Hardy III
Secretary Phyllis Jackson
Treasurer Jean Gardner
Historian Jean Gardner
Clerk Linda Byrd

TRUSTEES

2003	2004	2005
James Hull	Brenda Grant	George Everett

ELDERS

2003	2004	2005
Harper Grant	Bruce Ives	George Everett
Clayton Sugg	Heilig Hoffman	Kirby Hardy
Georgia Hardy	William Hardy III	

DEACONS

2003	2004	2005
Sutton Hardy	Paula Grant	Ricky Hardy
Mark Gray	J. P. Hill	Jerry Bass
Mary Hardy	Faye Hardy	Roger Creech
Jean Gardner	Sue Potter	Morris Luckett
Lynwood Earl Everett	Jim Daughety	

DEACONESSSES

2003	2004	2005
Vickie Letchworth	Norma Smith	Teresa Everett
Brenda Grant	Mary Smith	Rose Hardy
Shirley Hoffman	Theresa Hardy	Francille Luckett

JR. DEACON/DEACONESSSES

2003	2004
Jacob Alphin	Robert Earl Everett
Amy Hardy	
Jennifer Barrow	

Trustee Chairperson: George Everett
Elders Chairperson: Kirby Hardy
Deacons Chairperson: Faye Hardy

DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Faye Hardy

Jerry Rouse	Lynn Whaley
Alice Hill	Lori Gordon
Tony Gordon	Jean Gardner
Teresa Everett	Lori Gray
Liz Grady	

EVANGELISM: Mary and Kirby Hardy

Anna Colie	Edward Colie
LaVera Jones	Hazel Hardy
Lemuel Hardy	Linwood Hill
Linda Sugg	

MEMBERSHIP: Georgia Hardy

Lynn Whaley	Jean Gardner
Darla Gay	

OUTREACH:

Diane Hill	
Rev. James Hull	Dianne Turner
Phyllis Jackson	Shirley Hoffman
Gloria Rouse	Linda Suggs
Allyson Price	Jeffrey Rouse

PROPERTY:

William Jones	
Bobby Gardner	George Everett
Jim Daughety	Linwood Earl Everett
Michael Hull	Jean Gardner

STEWARDSHIP: Bruce Ives

Jean Gardner	Harold Jones
Norma Jones	Bobby Gardner

WORSHIP: Wesley Letchworth

Linda Byrd	Lisa Jones
Maxine Smith	JoAnn Phillippe
Vickie Letchworth	Allyson Price
Heilig Hoffman	Shirley Hoffman
Rev. Leslie Wilkins	

Deacons Chairperson: Faye Hardy

Deaconess Chairperson: Brenda Grant

Elders Chairperson: Kirby Hardy

Trustee Chairman: George Everett

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS AND TEACHERS

Assembly 9:45 AM – 10:00 AM
Sunday School 10:00 – 10:45 AM

Superintendent: Bruce Ives

Teachers	Classes
Jean Gardner	Senior Adults
Jerri Rouse	Adults
Alice Hill	Young Adults
Liz Grady	Jr. & High School
Lynn Whaley, Lori Gray, and Teresa Everett	Children
Lori & Tony Gordon, Lynn Whaley	Youth Groups

Worship Service 11:00 AM

CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Leader: Rev. Leslie Wilkins

Group meets third Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM
At Church Fellowship Building

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Leader: Jean Gardner	
Secretary/Treasurer	Hilda Cox
Devotional Leader	Mary Hardy
Worship/Study Leader	Jerri Rouse
Service Chairpersons	Frances Edmondson & Jerri Rouse

Group meets monthly on Tuesday following first Sunday
At 7:30 PM at the Church Fellowship Building

Membership Roster

Special Recognition

Oldest Member	Maude Creech
Youngest Member	Jacob Alphin
Longest Member	Maude Creech & Odell Rouse
Newest Member	Joanne Phillippi

(Information as of printing on July 1, 2002)

Fifty Year (or longer) Memberships

1927	Maude Creech	1947	Lyman Hardy
	Odell Rouse		Henry Everett
1928	Frank A. Rouse		Louise Lee
1931	Marion Rouse		Jerry Rouse
1934	Polly Rouse	1948	Anna Colie
	Catherine Sugg		George Everett
1937	Elmer Dail		Billy Ray Smith
	Stuart Rouse		Clayton Sugg
	Robert Hardy		Ann Vincent
	J. Lemuel Hardy	1950	Evelyne Rouse
1940	Nellie Conklin	1951	William Emerson
	Dorothy Byrd	1952	Ilene Jones
	W. K. Hardy		Frances Edmundson
	Hazel Hardy		Donald Rouse
1942	Ethel Eakes		Belva Creech
1943	Roger Creech		Edward Colie
1945	Doris Barfield		Billy Casper
1944	William Jones		
1946	Evelyn Rouse		

Membership Roster As of July 1, 2002

Alphin, Jacob	Corbin, Leigh Byrd	Grady, Lizzie
Alphin, Lisa	Cousin, Teri	Grant, Brenda
Avery, Donnie	Cox, Hilda	Grant, Harper
Barfield, Doris	Creech, Belva	Grant, Jonathon
Barnes, Carmen Smith	Creech, Maude	Grant, Myra Wade
Barrow, Jennifer	Creech, Roger	Grant, Paula
Barrow, Joseph	Dail, Elmer	Gray, Faye
Barrow, Karen	Dail, Roger	Gray, Lori
Barrow, Kathleen	Daniels, Gayle	Gray, Mark
Barrow, Keith	Daniels, Ruth	Gray, Steve
Barrow, L. Dee	Daughety, Gail	Hallow, Kim Colie
Barrow, Thelma	Daughety, James	Hardy, Amy
Barrow, Willard	Daughety, Jim	Hardy, Bennie
Bass, Cathy Jones	Daughety, Stella	Hardy, Faye
Bass, Jerrell	Davis, Joy Barrow	Hardy, Georgia
Bass, Jerry	Davis, Ray	Hardy, Hazel
Bell, Catherine	Davis, Sharon	Hardy, Jackie
Bias, Carolyn	Deluise, Beverly Kennedy	Hardy, Jay
Bias, Eris	Dokka, Gary	Hardy, Kirby
Bostic, Jennifer Colie	Dove, Bill	Hardy, Lemuel
Bradicich, Chad	Dove, Martha	Hardy, Lyman
Bradicich, Dianne	Dunn, Jessica Jones	Hardy, Mary
Brinson, Sheri	Eakes, Ethel	Hardy, Mary Kathryn
Butler, Selma	Edmundson, Frances	Hardy, Ricky
Byrd, Dorothy	Edwards, Zelphia	Hardy, Robert
Byrd, George	Emerson, William	Hardy, Rose
Byrd, Linda	Everett, George	Hardy, Sutton
Carlin, Jim	Everett, Henry	Hardy, Theresa
Carlin, Selma	Everett, Lynwood Earl	Hardy, W.K. (Spark)
Carlyle, Amy	Everett, Martha Ann	Hardy, William, Jr.
Carlyle, Martha	Everett, Pat	Hardy, William III
Carraway, Belinda	Everett, Robert Earl	Harris, Kathy Dove
Cashwell, Linda	Everett, Tammy	Harris, Tammy
Casper, Billy	Everett, Teresa	Harrison, Catherine Gardner
Colie, Anna	Foote, Connie Small	Herbert, Susan Carlyle
Colie, Edward	Gardner, Bobby	Hill, Alice
Colie, Gina	Gardner, Jean	Hill, Colon
Colie, Matthew	Gaskins, Cindy Purvis	Hill, Diane
Colie, Meredith	Gay, Darla	Hill, J.P., Jr.
Colie, Tim	Glover, Dorothy	Hill, Linwood
Collins, Jack	Glover, W.E.	Hill, Mary
Collins, Margaret	Gordon, Lori Everett	Hill, Sudie
Conklin, Nellie	Gordon, Tony	Hinson, Dalton
Conklin, Treva	Grady, Joe	Hinson, Frances

Hoffman, Parrish
Hoffman, Heilig
Hoffman, Shirley
Hoffman, Wanda
Holland, Beth Edwards
Hood, Walter
Hughes, Charles
Hughes, Jimmy
Hughes, Mildred
Hughes, Seth
Hughes, Sidney
Hughes, Wanda Creech
Hull, Brenda
Hull, Rev. James
Hull, James
Hull, Jimmy
Hull, Mary
Hull, Michael
Hull, William
Ives, Bruce
Ives, Frances
Jackson, Phyllis
Jarman, Jennifer Letchworth
Jernigan, Edith
Jernigan, Heather
Johnson, Erin
Johnson, Judy
Jones, Barry
Jones, Carol Lynn Frantz
Jones, Harold
Jones, Ilene
Jones, Ivera
Jones, Lisa
Jones, Mary Frances
Jones, Mike
Jones, Norma
Jones, Mike
Jones, Norma
Jones, Phyllis
Jones, Wilbur
Jones, William
Joyner, Barbara Creech
Kennedy, Mimie
Kennedy, Ralph

King, Ashley
Latham, Ella
Latham, John, Jr.
Lee, Louise
Letchworth, Thomas
Letchworth, Vickie
Letchworth, Wesley
Lewis, Pamela
Little, LaJune Byrd
Lockette, Francelle
Lockette, Morris
McDonald, Michelle Hoffman
Mewborn, Faye
Mooring, Mary Frances Abbott
Moore, Judy
Moore, Lisa Poole
Moore, Tee
Morgan, Carolyn
Murphrey, Betsy
Myers, Debbie
Myers, Edith Rouse
Myers, Gloria
Myers, Maxcine
Nale, Richard
Nale, Susan
Nethercutt, Patricia
Phillippi, Joanne
Piner, Angie Sugg
Poole, Ella
Poole, Franklin
Poole, John Henry
Potter, Donnie
Potter, Gene
Potter, Sue
Price, Allyson
Purvis, Norma Seymour
Rackley, Bernie
Renfro, Rosa Hall
Roberts, Carolyn
Roberts, Eugene
Rogers, James
Rogers, Sandra
Rosenbaum, Jessica Purvis
Rouse, Allen

Rouse, Angela
Rouse, Ann
Rouse, Beulah
Rouse, Deborah
Rouse, Donald
Rouse, Doris Ann
Rouse, Douglas
Rouse, Evelyn
Rouse, Evelynne
Rouse, Frank A.
Rouse, George, Jr.
Rouse, Harold
Rouse, Jeffrey
Rouse, Jimmy
Rouse, Jerri
Rouse, Kevin
Rouse, Marion
Rouse, Mildred
Rouse, Odell
Rouse, Polly
Rouse, Randy
Rouse, Shirley
Rouse, Stuart
Rouse, Wayne
Salinas, John
Sanders, Diann
Sanderson, Deborah
Seymour, Carl
Seymour, Carl Ed.
Smith, Allyson
Smith, Billy Ray
Smith, Eric
Smith, Gail
Smith, George
Smith, Johnny
Smith, Mary
Smith, Maxine
Smith, Norma
Smith, Tracy Sutton
Stanley, Debbie Everett
Stocks, Mary Ann
Sugg, Brad
Sugg, Catherine
Sugg, Clayton

Sugg, Jean
Sugg, Linda
Sugg, Robin
Sullivan, Gerald
Summerlin, Sue Creech
Sutton, Anglea Williams
Sutton, Angie Dove
Sutton, Charleah
Sutton, Charles III
Sutton, Leon Hardy
Sutton, Lynn
Sutton, Johnny
Sutton, Ray
Taylor, Bruce
Taylor, Cammie
Taylor, Diane
Taylor, Georgia
Taylor, Ronnie
Taylor, Tonya Sutton
Turnage, Lossie
Turnage, Susan Kennedy
Turner, Diane
Turner, Rev. Harold
Turner, Kim
Tyson, Graham
Vale, Vickie
Vincent, Ann
Vincent, Thurman
Vincent, Timothy
Wade, Evelyn
Wade, Iris
Wade, Mark
Wainwright, Helen
Whaley, Lynn
White, Alice
White, Edna
White, Lovit, Jr.
White, Tony
Whitley, Fran Colie
Wiggins, Jo Ann
Wilkins, Betty
Wilkins, Rev. Leslie
Williams, Brian
Williams, Richard

Williams, Sean Dail
Worthington, Marilyn Sutton
Worthington, Walter
Zavar, Hermine Cox
Zimarino, Kay Keller

This booklet was written to commemorate the 250 years of service that Wheat Swamp Christian Church has given to the community, county and state. The information that is included was compiled from previous historical documents and personal recollections from members and friends of the congregation. We realize not everything is included in this brief history; however, we have included as much as possible. Some dates may differ from previous documents but we have tried to be as accurate as possible.

Many dedicated people have contributed much love and hard work over the years and they certainly deserve praise for all their accomplishments. It is next to impossible to mention everyone and it was not our intent to exclude anyone; therefore, at this time we take this opportunity to give honor to all that have given so much to keep Wheat Swamp Christian Church alive to serve this community.

We also thank everyone who helped in any way to make this booklet possible, especially the congregation for their articles and pictures, the anniversary committee for their countless hours of work and most of all the support of our church cabinet.

